

**RESTORE ACT
Public Meeting
November 19, 2013**

Attendees: Ryan Bell, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Chris Cowart, Vice-Chairman, School Board Representative
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative
Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture
Drinda Merritt, Citizen Representative
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution (college/university)
Jolie Davis, Citizen Representative
Andrew Gude, Citizen Representative
Bruce Wilson, Tourism Industry Representative
Fred Moody, County Coordinator
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney

Consultants: Bill Williams, Amber Davis Williams

Chairman Bell opened the Committee meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 3:01 p.m. at the Levy County Court House with an invocation and the Pledge to the Flag. Chairman Bell called for public comment and there were none.

Minutes

Chris Cowart made a motion to approve the minutes of October 15, 2013, second by Marilyn Ladner and the motion carried.

A roll call of those in attendance was made.

Gulf Consortium Meetings - October 25, 2013 and November 13, 2013

Mr. Bill Williams explained the Gulf Consortium discussed the state-wide comprehensive plan, who will prepare the plan and how it will be funded. Mr. Williams said the next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 2014 in Tallahassee. Mr. Williams said the invitations to negotiate for consulting groups to help facilitate a state-wide comprehensive plan remains fragmented.

Mr. Williams said that 13 counties sent letters commenting on the rules and those comments can be reviewed on the Florida Association of Counties ("FAC") website.

Mr. Williams said there appears to be frustration among the 23 counties with different visions. Mr. Williams said if the watershed is adopted then the vaguer the Request for Proposal the more changes there will have to be. Mr. Williams said the biggest issue for the Gulf Consortium is there is no plan and no understanding of where the funding for preparing the plan will come from.

Chairman Bell said the October 25 meeting was very challenging with 23 counties having their own vision, included in the lengthy meeting was a commissioner commenting on pronunciation in the letter the Gulf Consortium was discussing. Chairman Bell said the Gulf Consortium is trying to keep a united front while smaller counties haven't been attending the meetings as they wait to see if there will be funding leaving them at least 6

months behind where Levy County is now.

Mr. Williams explained money from the second component has been released, no projects have been discussed, the Governor hasn't appointed his 6 technical representatives, therefore, not attending any of the meetings and it was the impression that they would lead the meetings.

Ms. Leslie Sturmer said 6 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation ("NFWF") projects were funded in concert with the Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") and Fish and Wildlife Commission ("FWC").

Report on Big Bend Counties Meeting

Mr. Williams reported on the meeting with the counties comprising the Big Bend area. Mr. Williams said Jefferson County did not attend the meeting with the County Administrators from Dixie and Taylor counties. Mr. Williams explained that Fred Moody along with Mr. Bill Willson and himself discussed a possible coalition with the other counties. Mr. Williams said they found the meeting productive with open dialogue and while there may be individual projects the spirit to work together was evident.

Chairman Bell said he is unable to speak with Tim Alexander the point person for Dixie County but has been informed by Mike Cassidy that the county is not ready to spend any money until the rules are released and will have a challenge in holding their town meetings and compiling a plan. Chairman Bell advised the Committee that they could speak to the individuals in the other counties, however, as he was on the Gulf Consortium he would be in violation of the "Sunshine Law" if he were to personally have any discussions.

Levy and Citrus Educators

Ms. Marilyn Ladner explained she had arranged and moderated a meeting earlier with interested Citrus and Levy county educators to hear how the Pasco County School System is working to improve the educating of the K-12 or K-18 school systems. Ms. Ladner said Pasco County has put a lot of work into creating a plan which is very cohesive and it will be presented to the 23 counties.

Hazard Mitigation

Mr. Bruce Day, Planner for the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council ("WRPC") recommended that the county consider an economic and disaster resiliency study. Mr. Day said WRPC has been doing hazard mitigation for the county since around 1999 including preparing the Regional Hurricane Evacuation Plan. Mr. Day said this study could encompass economic development and assist the county with day to day with proving GIS and plotting for Building and Zoning, mapping of natural resources and wetlands. Mr. Day said he had spoken with Mr. David Pieklik, Nature Coast Economic Development Council considering an outreach effort and include the municipalities and with Mr. Mark Johnson, Director of Emergency Management Services on a post disaster comprehensive plan. Mr. Day said many issues could be included in one scope of work and a study would be beneficial and increase the capabilities of the county departments to enhance their work performance.

Ms. Jolie Davis inquired into the cost of a scope of work as described by Mr. Day and he responded it would be around \$80,000.

Chairman Bell explained that WRPC does a lot of projects for the county and would need to prepare a menu of what work was needed.

Mr. Day said an inspection of all the hazard analysis could be performed for \$7,000 including first responder training, transportation disadvantaged plan and several different projects. Mr. Day said he is uncertain of the criteria for the RESTORE Act funding sources or how WRPC's services would be of assistance.

Mr. Williams said today the Committee was hearing the presentation and it can't be quantified today but an interesting point was the comprehensive plan and the costs affiliated with the preparation of a plan.

Project Reviews and Presentations

Mr. Williams said 3 projects had been submitted well in advance and Dr. Streeter was going to do the presentation for those projects. Mr. Williams explained that Ms. Davis-Williams would provide by email on November 20, 2013 a ranking sheet and requested each project presented be ranked individually with the scoring criteria and returned to her by email and she would provide the findings at the January, 2014 meeting. Mr. Williams said the next 3 applicants would present in January.

Ms. Davis-Williams said there had been a total of 6 applications received and the first 3 projects have a common background. Dr. Streeter said the projects have been submitted by the Inglis/Yankeetown Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Streeter gave a brief overview of the re-establishment of an active Chamber, the Chamber's goals for marketing of tourism, specifically eco-tourism in the Inglis/Yankeetown area.

Dr. Streeter said the first project is a media packet and would be a one time request. Dr. Streeter said funding for this project would allow the development of the media package with tri-fold brochures, CD's, postcards, and maps of the area. Dr. Streeter said the Florida Department of Transportation ("FDOT") will allow the Town of Inglis to install a welcome sign on US 19. Dr. Streeter said this would promote eco-tourism and the Chamber would be able to refurbish supplies as necessary. Dr. Streeter explained all 3 projects were inter-related.

Ms. Davis-Williams explained the costs for the first project would be \$12,750.00 for production, \$8,500.00 for the design of the materials, and signage would be \$8,000.00 for a total of \$29,250.00.

Dr. Streeter presented the second proposed project for a solar operated kiosk which would be located behind the Community Center. Dr. Streeter described the kiosk and how it would provide information 24/7 to tourists. This project has a projected cost of \$54,924.00.

Ms. Ladner explained that the company is well established and the software program

allows for information at the kiosk to be changed for emergencies. Ms. Ladner said once the design and development is established it can be updated as needed.

Dr. Streeter explained the third proposed project is funding for the Chamber to hire a part-time events planner/marketing person and approval of the project would allow the initial funding to hire the part-time staff and the Chamber's plan is to continue funding the position with revenue from events that are planned in the area with the project cost estimated at \$41,600.00

Ms. Davis-Williams said the projects should be assessed with the established criteria and then the Committee will discuss the ranking and scoring.

Mr. Williams said the projects fall within tourism and is allowed and on a larger scale can work with other counties and the coalition within the Big Bend area to allow a common branding.

Mr. David Pieklik said from the workforce development view there is a gray area with tourism creating x amount of jobs and the subjective score of 0-5 may not be the best way to quantify the project. Mr. Pieklik explained the governor estimates 80 tourists create 1 new job. Mr. Pieklik said there may be a disadvantage of using a formula.

Ms. Sturmer said these are the first projects submitted and the first involved with local government and a non-profit. Ms. Sturmer added there will be submissions from private business and the judging will need to determine if the business is viable, has financial feasibility and it could get complicated.

Ms. Davis-Williams said at this point the scoring set up is the best way to handle the project applications and consideration can be given at the January meeting to discuss changes to make the rating and scoring of projects manageable.

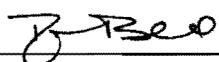
With no new business presented the next Committee meeting will be held on January 14, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., and then the next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at the court house.

Ms. Davis Williams requested the scores at least 45 days before the next meeting from the 3 project applications submitted.

Public Comments

There were no public comments and the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE



Ryan Bell, Chairman