

**RESTORE ACT
Public Meeting
June 11, 2013**

Attendees: Ryan Bell, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution (college/university)
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative
Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture
Andrew Gude, Citizen Representative
Vacancy, Development/Job Creation Representative
Vacancy, Citizen Representative
Bill Williams, SCG Governmental Affairs
Amber Davis, Statecraft
Fred Moody, County Coordinator
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney

Absent: Chris Cowart, Vice-Chairman, School Board Representative

Comm. Ryan Bell opened the meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 3:09 p.m.

Discussion and Approval of Pot 1 - Application, Project Form, Scoring Criterion Guide and Score Sheet

Application/Project Form

There was discussion presented on the proposed application for submitting Pot 1 projects. Ms. Marilyn Ladner discussed the project costs and what was going to be required and what this section entailed. Mr Bill Williams explained that the Committee would want to look at the cost of the project, including planning and construction and also if there would be recurring costs and the length of the project.

Mr. Ryan Bell said he saw the projects being submitted on the application and then the Committee would sort and rank the projects for submission to the Board of County Commissioners for action.

Ms. Ladner explained success of projects is not only funding but the people and funding for on going salaries would not be acceptable but funding salaries for employees to start up projects should be considered to allow the project to become self-sustaining.

Ms. Amber Davis said the current design of the application is for building construction and this could be an additional consideration when reviewing a project application.

Ms. Leslie Sturmer recommended including an area for a summary with a supporting budget which breaks out the contracts for planning, contracts for construction and that contracts could include people.

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Mr. Bell requested revising the application form to include the additional breakdown since the project application submitted pertained more to construction projects.

Ms. Sturmer said the inclusion of the company entity would be useful and allow for more collaboration to strengthen projects. Ms. Sturmer said the portion of the application which only allows for a 100 words or less is not sufficient. After additional discussion by the Advisory Committee members and the consultants Mr. Williams and Ms. Davis it was understood that this section would allow for an initial overview of the project and then additional more detailed information could be requested from the applicant.

Scoring Criteria/Guide and Score Sheet

Ms. Davis discussed the different categories for the types of projects and recommended that the applicants self-score the project with a ranking of 0-5. Ms. Davis explained that this recommendation would allow for the applicant to see prior to submitting an application if the project qualified and what criteria it fit for a possible project. Ms. Davis then the Advisory Committee would also score the projects.

Ms. Sturmer commented that the categories for the dedicated county funds appeared to fit the criteria for the funds of Pots 2, 3, and 4. Mr. Williams said priority will be a qualifying factor and it may be a small project which does not have a state-wide impact to qualify for the funding in the other Pots.

Ms. Davis said another thing to consider would be the length of time it takes to complete a project. This information may be useful to allocate bonus points if a project is going to be completed quickly versus a long time project.

Ms. Ladner moved to adopt the application Project Form with the changes discussed, second by David Pieklik and the Motion Carried.

Discussion

Mr. Bell said the information will become available electronically on the website. Ms. Ladner said the public should be informed at the Town Hall meetings when the applications will be available. Ms. Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney reminded them that the rules have not be published by the Treasury Department. It was decided after discussion to make the project application available begin accepting the pre-application beginning August 1, 2013. After further discussion it was decided to start two (2) weeks after the last town hall meeting. Mr. Bell said that would be 90 days out and a link will be established by that time on the County website.

Ms. Ladner said it needs to be very clear that the applications being submitted and reviewed does not mean that they will be accepted and approved. Ms. Davis recommended having a workshop at the conclusion of the town hall meetings to provide assistance in completing the project applications. After further discussion of dates it was decided by

consensus to allow the applications to be submitted whenever. Mr. Bruce Wilson moved to accept the applications for review as soon as they are received, seconded by Ms. Ladner and the Motion Carried.

The Committee discussed various dates to hold the additional town hall meetings within the municipalities and they were set to be scheduled as follows: Inglis/Yankeetown, July 16, 2013; Chiefland, July 23, 2013, Williston, August 13, 2013, Fanning Springs, August 27, 2013 with the workshops commencing at 6:00 p.m. and then having a workshop in Chiefland on September 10, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Davis said the public needed to be reminded that there is no money for any of the projects, that the Treasury Rules are still pending, the documents will be placed on the County website and that the applicant will need to self score their project and it was the consensus of the Advisory Committee to provide this information at all of the town hall meetings.

Minutes

Ms. Ladner moved to approve the Advisory Committee meeting minutes for May 14, 2013 and May 28, 2013, seconded by David Pieklik and the Motion Carried.

Consultants

Ms. Davis and Mr. Williams discussed the need to focus on Pot 1 projects while remaining aware that some projects may be better suited for the other pots and to refer the applicant to those sources. Ms. Davis said applicants of various projects for the available funding pots may want to prepare a presentation for the Advisory Committee to bring in partners or to form a collaboration to strengthen the project.

Mr. George Wilson of Wilson Consulting was in attendance and spoke about land conservation and gulf conservation and sustainable projects for the Gulf of Mexico. Mr. Wilson said projects are being identified where the water sheds make the most difference encompassing ecotourism, fisheries, funding for oysters and clam farming. Mr. Wilson explained a coalition of counties could secure attention for funding.

Mr. Williams provided information on how other projects are being presented and concerns on how funding will be expended.

The meeting was recessed at 4:19 p.m. to resume for the Town Hall meeting.

Chairman Bell called the Town Hall meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge to the Flag and an invocation by Bill Williams. Chairman Bell announced there were two (2) vacancies on the Board, one for work force/job creation and a citizen representative at-large. Chairman Bell introduced local representatives of the Bronson Town Council, staff and visitors from Inglis and Yankeetown.

Mr. Williams presented an overview of Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee on its formation, vision and what the responsibilities the Board of County Commissioners has delegated to the Committee in informing the public of the funding that is available from the RESTORE Act and the projects that the Committee will be reviewing for the Pot 1 funding. Mr. Williams explained how the funds from the civil and criminal penalties and fines are being divided.

Ms. Davis presented a power point presentation reflecting the federal and state laws involved in disbursing the RESTORE Act funds and the percentages of the disbursements to the federal, state and local levels. Ms. Davis explained that the treasury rules had not been written or published, however, the information being presented was as current and up to date as possible, with the understanding that there could be changes once the treasury rules are approved and published. Ms. Davis explained that the different funding Pots would be disbursed under a formula with benefits being directed to the eight (8) counties that were directly affected by the oil spill and the remaining 15 coastal counties that had an indirect affect. Ms. Davis explained what projects could be submitted for Pot 1, 2, 3, and 4 funding and how projects should be reviewed and submitted to the appropriate federal and state agencies for Pots 2, 3, and 4. Ms. Davis added that the Pot 1 projects would be reviewed by the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and then forwarded to the Board of County Commissioners with recommendations for approval.

Mr. Jack Schofield, Mr. Larry Feldheusen, Mr. Berlon Weeks of Bronson Town Council had questions relating the formation of the RESTORE Act Committee, how applications for projects could be obtained and submission of projects for review.

Ms. Davis explained the Committee meets twice a month and are now finalizing the project applications, are doing a series of Town Hall meetings and will have the authority to review projects for the Pot 1 meeting. Ms. Davis said there is no dead line for submission on the projects but the Committee will hold a workshop at the conclusion of the Town Hall meetings on September 10, 2013 to assist with the project applications. Ms. Davis reminded the public that the funds have not been awarded and there is still an unknown factor on how much the funds will be. Ms. Davis said until the criminal suit is resolved in Louisiana against BP there is no information on the amount of funds that will be available or when they will be available.

Ms. Davis added that the Committee is establishing a ranking criteria and that after the initial project application additional information may be needed. Ms. Davis said the Committee during their review of Pot 1 projects will refer an applicant to another Pot for a funding source if it appears that the project would be more applicable to another funding source.

Ms. Marilyn Ladner reminded the public that there is no deadline and no funds available for Pot 1 projects yet.

Mr. Williams suggested that municipalities look at their capital improvement, local

mitigation and hazard plans for possible projects and to consider collaborating with another municipality or local or state agency to create a regional project.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE

Ryan Bell, Chairman