

Re 23-county Gulf Consortium

**From:** Doug Darling [<mailto:ddarling@fl-counties.com>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 24, 2013 09:57 PM  
**Subject:** Update from Commissioner Robinson

July 24, 2013

Dear Gulf Consortium Members:

I hope to update you on my recent NACo visit, as well as communicate information about the NRDA meeting in Pensacola tomorrow.

First at NACo we had a Gulf-wide meeting. I believe Bob Cole, from Santa Rosa County, and I were the only Florida Gulf Commissioners at NACo, and we both attended the meeting. At that same meeting we had commissioners from Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, with a majority of the members from Louisiana. At the meeting we discussed both RESTORE as well as the potential for a new Gulf caucus within NACo.

As for RESTORE, all the states are trying to find ways to produce plans and move those plans forward. Additionally, everyone discussed looking forward to hearing Treasury rules expected in August. Of interest, Alabama communicated they had obtained a grant from the Department of Commerce to produce their plan, and they were close to finalizing that statewide plan for RESTORE dollars. Of course the State of Louisiana already frontloaded their plan, so they too have a plan completed and ready to go. Again we all need to be prepared before the August meeting as to how we need to proceed with a Florida plan, so we do not fall further behind.

In addition to RESTORE, we did discuss forming a gulf-wide caucus within NACo for counties along the Gulf of Mexico from Texas to Florida. We plan to meet sometime this fall in Mobile and begin to set forward ways we can work together on Legislative issues that impact all of us. A couple of those items have been mentioned before such as OPA reform and fishing. Additionally, considerable time was spent on flood insurance by the contingent from Louisiana. It is certainly an issue that will impact all five Gulf States. I am sure you will be receiving more information about that initiative going forward and we will discuss that with the Federal Strike Team.

Finally, tomorrow, July 25, 2013, there will be a hearing related to NRDA and the most recent list of NRDA projects. One of the significant discussions centers around the PEIS (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement), an environmental study to be done to ensure certain projects will have an environmental benefit with little impact. While there are certainly projects that will require such analysis in each state, there are other projects, such as oyster reefs and living shorelines, which should be allowed to move quickly to begin restoration. If you can come to Pensacola tomorrow and if you do feel that some of these environmentally beneficial projects need to move faster, I suggest you attend the meeting tomorrow and make your opinions known. Additionally, if you have any questions or comments related to any of the projects made in recent NRDA awards, please feel free to attend and make those opinions known as well.

I will hope to continue to keep you updated as we continue to move forward. I hope all is well with each of you and I look forward to seeing you in Clearwater in August.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Grover C. Robinson, IV  
Chairman, Gulf Consortium