



GULF CONSORTIUM

November 4, 2014
Volume 2, Issue 10

Save the Date: November 19, 2014

The Gulf Consortium will be meeting on November 19, 2014 in conjunction with the FAC Legislative Conference. Details are below.

**Gulf Consortium Meeting
Wednesday November 19, 2014**
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon ET
Tampa Waterside Marriott
700 S Florida Ave
Tampa, FL 33602
Room: Florida V-VI

Important Dates

**Gulf Consortium
Meeting
Wednesday,
November 19th
9:00am-12:00 noon
EST**
Hillsborough County -
in conjunction with
FAC Legislative
Conference -
Waterside Marriott

Local RESTORE Act Plans

Bay County RESTORE Act Coordinator, Jim Muller, is producing a compilation of the county RESTORE Act Direct Component Multi-Year Plan and will be presenting a summary to the Consortium at the November 19th meeting. Last month Mr. Muller requested updates from all 23 Gulf Coast counties. The Consortium would like to remind those counties who have not submitted responses to Mr. Muller to do so via email at: jmuller@baycountyfl.gov. Mr. Muller is looking for just a brief summary on the status of each county's MYIP, advisory committee, contractors/consultant roles and project proposal solicitation and selection processes. Mr. Muller has a spreadsheet of responses he has already received in case you just need to review your prior submittals. Please email Mr. Muller if you need to review that spreadsheet. And, for your reference, review, and

information, Mr. Muller has made Bay County's partial MYIP and all its RESTORE Act Advisory Committee materials available at <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREdocs>.

State Expenditure Plan (SEP) Consultant Procurement

The SEP consultant procurement process is on course to provide the Board of Directors with a ranking and recommendation for consideration at the Consortium's November 19th meeting. All four firms which made the cut from the original Invitation to Negotiate filed their responses to the Request for Best and Final Offer on October 21st. The five-member Evaluation Team met in Leon County on October 30th to evaluate and rank the four proposals. The Evaluation Team chair, Monroe County Administrator Roman Gestesi and Leon County Purchasing Director Shelly Kelly will present the Evaluation Team's recommendation at the Consortium meeting.

NACO Gulf Coast States Caucus

The National Association of Counties' Gulf Coast States Caucus met in Biloxi, MS on October 15, 2014. The agenda was packed with relevant substance for Gulf Coast communities, including updates on RESTORE Act activities in the various states. In addition, Gulf Consortium Director, Pam Anderson was recognized to provide a brief presentation on the fisheries (and Magnuson-Stevenson Act reauthorization) issue. As a result of the discussion on the fisheries issue, the Caucus asked for the appointment of a work group with a representative of each state on this issue. Florida is supplying NACo staff with background information, including the proposed resolution that was before the Gulf Consortium. Furthermore, on the issue of the Oil Pollution Act, Florida asked the Caucus to draft statements on OPA reform and to bring those statements back to the Caucus as a priority of the Caucus. Finally, each gave provided updated reports on its states' activities under the RESTORE Act.

This Caucus event was a noticed public meeting for the Gulf Consortium. In addition to Ms. Anderson, other directors were also in attendance: Chair Grover Robinson (Escambia), Secretary/Treasurer Warren Yaeger (Gulf),

Commissioner Jack Mariano (Pasco), and Mr. Collier Merrill. Pinellas and Monroe Counties also had county commissioners participate in the Caucus meeting.

Deepwater Horizon Restoration Partners

Since the September 17, 2014 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Gulf Consortium, several meetings have occurred that are of note.

- Florida DEP: Consortium staff met with representatives of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection and Fish and Wildlife Commission, several times to discuss the Restoration Council's draft Guidelines, the Funded Priorities List process, and topics generally impacting RESTORE Act efforts throughout Florida. Quarterly meetings are being held between Gulf Consortium and Florida DEP/FWC. Representatives of DEP are being invited to each Gulf Consortium meeting.
- Governor's Office: Monthly meetings between the Governor's Office and the Gulf Consortium staffs are being held. Representatives of the Governor's Office are being invited to each Gulf Consortium meeting.
- Restoration Council: Certain staff members for the Restoration Council are being invited to each Gulf Consortium meeting.

DEP Deepwater Horizon RESTORE Act Webinar

On October 22nd, the Department of Environmental Protection held an almost two hour long webinar, discussing Florida's approach to the proposals to be submitted to the Restoration Council for Pot 2 projects to be included on the Funded Priorities List (FPL). Each Council member (11 total) can submit a maximum of five projects. Currently, the available fine money is from Transocean and amounts to between \$150 and \$180 million. Additional amounts will become available in the future but the amount and timing is subject to the federal court proceeding with BP. The FPL proposals are currently due to be submitted on November 17. The Restoration Council plans to make each proposal available for public viewing on its website during the week of November 17. After that, each proposal will undergo rigorous scientific, environmental, and cost reviews.

Reports of those reviews and evaluations will also be made publicly available as the process is underway. Once a draft FPL is developed by the Restoration Council, there will be a comment period and then the issuances of a Final FPL. The final product is not expected before late spring 2015. DEP has made an audio/video version of the [webinar](#) available on its website. You can also view the [PowerPoint slides](#) on the Consortium website.

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Gulf Consortium please visit our website at www.FACRestore.com, or contact the Consortium's Director Ginger Delegal at gdelegal@fl-counties.com or (850) 922-4300.

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