



GULF CONSORTIUM

April 1, 2015
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March 25th Consortium Meeting

The Gulf Consortium held its most recent full Board meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015, at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Carr Building in Tallahassee. The entire agenda and all backup to the agenda items can be viewed [here](#). The Board would like to give a special thank you to Ashley Williams, the the DEP Gulf Coast Public Affairs Manager for helping to provide the logistics and room set up for the meeting. In addition to several action items, the Board also heard reports on the progress of the development of the State Expenditure Plan, ongoing Deepwater Horizon Partnership discussions and meetings, the FY 2013/14 Independent Financial Audit Report, and the Planning Grant Application process.

Request for Proposals for Legal Services Released

The Gulf Consortium has issued an RFP to secure the permanent general counsel services for the Board. Shelly Kelley, the Director of Procurement at Leon County is providing the services needed by the Consortium to solicit, evaluate, and recommend a ranked list of firms to the full Board for action. Interested firms must submit their responses to the RFP by 2:00 p.m., eastern, on April 23, 2015. The purchasing policy for legal services and the RFP can be found by linking [here](#).

Warren Averett Presents the Final FY 2013/14 Independent Financial Audit

Important Dates

Friday, June 19, 2015

Gulf Consortium Meeting
Sawgrass Marriott
St. Johns County

Wed, August 26, 2015

Gulf Consortium Meeting
Hilton St. Petersburg, Pinellas County

Wed, November 18, 2015

Gulf Consortium Meeting
Omni Amelia Island,
Nassau County

Angela Balent, with Warren Averett, the Consortium's independent auditors for 2013/14 presented the Board with the final audit report. The report included an unmodified opinion on the financial statements of the Consortium, noting that there were no material weaknesses nor material noncompliance based on the firm's audit. In addition, Warren Averett concluded that the accounting policies of the Consortium are neutral and clear and that they are consistent with industry practice and with generally accepted accounting principles. The firm had no proposed audit adjustments and were pleased to report that no disagreements with management, as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, arose during the course of the audit. The full written report was included in the Board's agenda packet, at Item #9.1, and can be found [here](#).

DEP Presentation on Restoration Council Pot #2 Activities

Ashley Williams, the DEP Gulf Coast Public Affairs Manager [updated](#) the Consortium on activities in the Restoration Council and other Deepwater Horizon matters. The Restoration Council members have submitted their individual proposals for the full Council's consideration under Pot 2. Florida's proposals were submitted in November 2014. The Restoration Council is currently conducting the required reviews of the submissions. The Council members' proposals can be viewed on the Council's website [here](#).

Counties' Progress on their Multi Year Implementation Plans (MYIPs) under Pot 1

Jim Muller, the Bay County RESTORE Act Coordinator provided a report on the counties' progress on their Multi-Year Implementation Plans under the Direct Component (Pot 1) of the RESTORE Act. The presentation included information as to the status of each Gulf Coast county's Multi Year Implementation Plan, advisory committee, contractors/consultant roles and project proposal solicitation and selection processes. After the meeting, the [report](#) and [contact](#) information was posted on the Consortium's website for ease of use and reference.

Board Input During the Development of the State Expenditure Plan

Doug Robison, the Project Manager, with Environmental Science Association (ESA) presented information for each

phase of the development of the State Expenditure Plan (SEP) where the Gulf Consortium Board of Directors will have decision making authority. These points include the following, broken down by project phase:

Phase I

- Define Florida-specific goals, objectives, guiding principles and success measures for the SEP;
- Provide guidance on the composition of the Technical Advisory Committee and Economic Advisory Committee;
- Provide guidance on the appropriate balance of project types;
- Provide guidance on the appropriate geographic balance of projects; and
- Provide guidance on priority criteria for screening the initial project list.

Phase II

- Review and approve advisory committee membership;
- Review and approve the gaps analysis of initial project list; and
- Review and approve the new project nomination process.

Phases III & IV

- Review and approve the project evaluation criteria;
- Review and approve the draft and final priority project rankings; and
- Review and approve the draft and revised final SEP documents.

The full Consortium board approved the outline of these decision points at its meeting on March 25.

Goal Setting Workshop Set for August 26, 2015 in Pinellas County

In the ESA consultant team proposal, ESA proposed conducting a goal setting workshop with the Gulf Consortium Board of Directors as the second task in Phase I of the SEP planning process. The purpose of the goal setting workshop is to define Florida-specific goals

and objectives, commitments and guiding principles, measures of success, and other priorities to reach a general consensus before beginning the development of the SEP to avoid potential conflicts later in the process. Although the Restoration Council has defined the federal consistency requirements for State Expenditure Plans, there is flexibility in how the Florida SEP can be developed, as well as its focus and content. The Consortium has the opportunity to ensure that the SEP accommodates the diverse character, interests, and priorities of each of the Gulf Consortium. The ESA Team will facilitate a full-day workshop with the Gulf Consortium Board of Directors to define Florida-specific goals and objectives, commitments and guiding principles, measures of success, and priority considerations for the public involvement program and project screening for the Florida SEP. The workshop will be held on August 26, 2015, in conjunction with the FAC Board of Directors Leadership Summit and the FAC Policy Conference to be held in Pinellas County.

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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