

Local RESTORE Act Committee  
Minutes  
January 8, 2014

localrestoreact@co.walton.fl.us

The Local RESTORE Committee (LRC) met on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 5:00 PM at Bayou Arts Center, Santa Rosa Beach, Florida.

The following Committee members were present: Mike Flynt (Chair/Environmental), George Abert (Coastal Restoration/Management), John Heiser (Business South End of County), Andrew Jackson (Fishing Industry), Crystal Steele (Health/Human Services), Ed Gardner (Economic Development).

Committee Members not present: John Magee (Business North End of County), Tim Pauls (Tourism Industry), Sara Bowers (Community Leader), Patricia O'Brien-Murphy (Educator), Jennifer Steele (Arts/Culture)

Staff Members present: Melinda Gates (HCP Coordinator)

Mike Flynt, Chair opened the meeting at 5:07 PM. He recognized elected official County Commissioner Cindy Meadows.

Mr. Flynt asked that the agenda be approved. Motion by Ed Gardner, second by John Heiser. Motion carried (Ayes 6, Nays 0: Flynt aye, Abert aye, Heiser aye, Jackson aye, Crystal Steele aye, Gardner aye).

Mr. Flynt asked that the minutes from November 14, 2013 regular meeting and December 11, 2013 workshop be approved. Motion with correction by Tim Pauls, second by John Magee. Motion carried (Ayes 6, Nays 0: Flynt aye, Abert aye, Heiser aye, Jackson aye, Crystal Steele aye, Gardner aye).

No presentation was given during the meeting.

Chairman's Report: Summary of December 11, 2013 Workshop.

Chairman Flynt took the floor to present the Chairman's Report. He briefed the Committee on the steps for the Local RESTORE Committee including creating an application and developing an evaluation process.

Sub-Committee Reports:

1. Application: Presentation of draft Application
  - The Committee agreed to use the Monroe County application as a template for developing the Walton County application. See "Draft Application" created during the meeting for specific items added to the template application.
2. Evaluation: Discussion of combining draft Application with evaluation criteria
  - No new information was provided from the Evaluation Sub-committee

Unfinished Business:

1. Adoption of Additional Committee Comments on Walton County RESTORE Act Comprehensive Plan.

- Mr. Flynt asked for approval from the Committee that the Walton County RESTORE Act Comprehensive Plan with the Committee's recommended changes be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. John Heiser motioned, seconded by Crystal Steele. Motion carried (Ayes 6, Nays 0: Flynt aye, Abert aye, Heiser aye, Jackson aye, Crystal Steele aye, Gardner aye).

New Business:

No new business was presented.

Additional Public Comment:

No additional public comments were presented.

New Action Items:

Walton County staff will provide the minutes from the meeting by January 17, 2014. Committee will need to review the minutes and provide comments on the draft application by January 30, 2014.

The next regular meeting of the Local RESTORE Act Committee will be Wednesday, January 30, 2014, at 5:00 PM at the Bayou Arts Center.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Submitted respectfully by

Melinda Gates, HCP Coordinator, Public Works, Environmental Department



**Walton County**  
**RESTORE Act**  
**Project Funding Submittal Form**

**Purpose:**

The RESTORE Act Project Submittal Form is designed to assist citizens, businesses and public or private organizations wishing to submit a project for consideration of funding from the RESTORE Act dollars allocated to Walton County by the 2012 RESTORE Act.

**Instructions:**

- To be considered for RESTORE Act funding from Walton County's RESTORE Act local allocation, or "local pot", you must complete this Project Funding Submittal Form and submit it electronically and hardcopy, by the due date: \_\_\_\_\_.  
\*\*\*\*\***Late or incomplete submissions will not be reviewed.**\*\*\*\*\*
- Please submit one complete Submittal Form per project; if you have multiple projects, please submit one Submittal Form for each project.
- ~~If you are an organization that has submitted an application in the first round, you may re-submit/replace that application if you wish, or submit another application. If you wish to have your application considered as it was already submitted, no further action is required.~~
- A complete Submittal Form will consist of the following four sections:
  1. Application Cover Page – please use the formatted cover pages included (questions 1-6);
  2. Project Budget – please use the budget form included;
  3. Application Narrative – Detailed Project Information (questions 7-18);  
*(For this portion, please provide responses on normal, letter size paper, 12 pt font, 1" margins; and paginate. Take as much space as needed for each question; but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question. Please be sure to respond to each question. If a question is not applicable, please indicate that.)*
  4. Any additional documentation necessary to fully understand your project.
- Please submit completed form ELECTRONICALLY, as a single PDF document, to [email@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:email@co.walton.fl.us) by the deadline. Once your Form is received, you will receive a confirmation email.
- Please ALSO submit a complete HARD COPY Form to \_\_\_\_\_, Walton County Public Works, 117 Montgomery Circle, Defuniak Springs, FL 32435, by the deadline.

- Please refer to the Walton County RESTORE Act website for additional information. Questions can be directed to \_\_\_\_\_ by email at [email@co.walton.fl.us](mailto:email@co.walton.fl.us).

**Selection for Funding:**

- Proposal will be evaluated based on these criteria: 1) need for and benefits of the project; 2) cost-effectiveness and financial feasibility; 3) technical feasibility/probability of success; 4) timeliness of implementation and completion; 5) consistency with approved public plans/public support; and 6) project management capacity.
- Applications received by the due date, and which meet at least one of the allowable uses, will be reviewed and scored by the members of the Walton County Local RESTORE Act Committee.
- The Committee will meet in one or more noticed, public meeting(s) (dates to be determined) to discuss, elevate, and rank project submissions.
- The list of ranked projects will be presented to the Walton county Board of County Commissioners, which will make the final decision on project awards.

**General Information:**

- **All project awards are subject to availability and amount of Local RESTORE Act dollars directed to Walton County.**
- **All project awards will be subject to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, rules, regulations, and policies (auditing, reporting, procurement, transparency, etc.). ~~Federal rules and regulations guiding RESTORE Act project award funding are still being developed by the US Treasury. All information provided herein is subject to further revision pending the development and adoption of these rules.~~**
- All projects must have a direct benefit to Walton County pursuant to one or more of the RESTORE Act criteria.
- Applicants certify that the information provided in their complete Submittal Forms and in any supporting documents, are true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief. Inaccuracies, omissions, or any other information found to be false may result in rejection of this application and project funding considerations.
- All submittal Forms and supporting documentation are subject to discussion and public input at Local RESTORE Act Committee meetings, public meetings, and the Walton County Board of County Commissioners; and those submitting proposals may be requested to present their proposals or respond to questions at such meetings.
- Applicants may be requested to provide additional information or to complete a supplemental project proposal form.
- All forms and supporting documentation are public information and will be made available to the public pursuant to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and policies.

- Projects for funding from other RESTORE Act provisions should be submitted to the appropriate funding entity, (i.e. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Natural Resource Damage Assessment, etc.). For additional information on other funding opportunities, visit the Department of Environmental Protection website at [www.dep.state.fl.us](http://www.dep.state.fl.us).
- Projects must meet at least one of the uses listed below. The list of allowable uses has been ranked in priority order by the Local RESTORE Act Committee and is provided as a reference.

**Walton County Local RESTORE Act Committee Ranking of Allowable Uses**

Project Category	Ranking Percentage
1. Workforce development and job creation.	27
2. Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including ports.	22
3. Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches and coastal systems.	16
4. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.	7
4. Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.	7
4. Promotion of tourism, including recreational fishing.	7
5. Implementation of federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.	5
6. Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested in the Gulf Coast region.	4
7. Planning assistance.	3
8. Improvements to state parks in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon spill.	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 1 OF 2 (PROJECT BASIC CRITERIA)

Section 1: Application Cover Page; Basic Criteria

Please use this page, or re-create as is.

1. **PROJECT TYPE:** *(As mandated by the RESTORE Act, funds may only be used for one or more of the allowable uses listed below, which the County cannot amend or change. Carefully review each criteria listed below and determine if your project will achieve one or more of the allowable uses below. Projects that do not meet at least one of the allowable uses below will not be considered for funding. Check all that apply.)*

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine, and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast Region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on state parks in coastal areas affected by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Administrative costs of complying with the Act.
- Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Region, including recreational fishing.
- Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region.

2. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** *include at least one name, phone number, email address, and organization name if applicable)*

- Organization:
- Address:
- City, State, Zip Code:
- Contact Person:
  - Name:
  - Title:
  - Phone:
  - Email Address:

**APPLICATION COVER PAGE – 2 OF 2 (PROJECT SUMMARY)**

**Section 2: Application Cover Page; Project Summary Information**

*Please utilize this sheet or re-create, but keep format as is:*

3. **Project Name:** *(Provide a short, succinct title for the project)*

4. **Project Executive Summary:** *(Provide a concise summary or abstract in the space below; do not exceed the space below.)*

5. **Range of Benefit:** Does this project have a

- Local benefit?
- County-wide benefit?
- Regional benefit?
- Gulf-wide benefit?

*(Provide the location of the project and a brief description of the area that is benefiting; do not exceed the space below.)*

6. **Project Cost:** *(Provide the actual/estimated project cost, the amount being requested with this submission, and the amount of match committed to the project from any source. Please make clear the total project cost and the amount you are requesting. There is an opportunity to provide detailed cost/request/match information in the narrative section (see question 8).)*

• Total Project Cost:	\$ _____	
• RESTORE Request Amount:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Secured Cash Match Value: <small>(Include documentation. i.e. Letters of Commit, Letter of Credit, etc.)</small>	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• In-Kind Match Value:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Funding Gap:	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____
• Anticipated Cash Match <i>(potential funding from other sources)*:</i>	\$ _____	% of project cost: _____

\* These funds must be secured within 1 year of project award.

APPLICATION PROJECT BUDGET

Section 3: Project Budget

PROJECT BUDGET Activity/Item	Cost	Funding		
		Anticipated RESTORE Funding	Cash Match	In-Kind Match
<b>Planning/Design/Permitting</b>				
Administration*:				
<b>Planning Subtotal:</b>				
<b>Construction or Project Activity(ies)</b>				
Administration*:				
<b>Construction Subtotal:</b>				
<b>Monitoring</b>				
Administration*:				
<b>Monitoring Subtotal:</b>				
<b>Project Cost</b>				
Total Administration*:				
<b>TOTAL Project Cost:</b>				

Estimated Costs by Year	
Year 1	
Year 2	
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	

Notes: Only complete the sections of the budget that are applicable for your project. Please refer to question 8 to provide further explanation of budget details.

\*The RESTORE Act places a total 3% cap on administrative expenses. How this 3% will be applied and or utilized is unknown. The Committee has recommended that applicant organizations ASSUME ZERO FUNDING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.



## APPLICATION QUESTIONS – DETAILED PROJECT INFORMATION

### Section 4: Application Narrative; Detailed Project Information

Please respond clearly and specifically to each of the following questions. Use 12pt font, 1 inch margins, and pagination, to aid in readability. There is no page limit, but please be as brief as possible. To complete your submission, please attach your response to these questions to the application cover pages and the budget page.

7. **Project Description:** *(Describe all aspects of the project; what issue, need, concern or problem does the project address? Why is the issue/need/concern/problem important? Is there an urgency or immediacy to the need? Provide facts and data sources used to support the need for this project. What and/or who does the project impact, benefit or affect; what will it accomplish when completed? Provide facts and data sources to support the expected impacts. Provide any other relevant information needed to describe your project. Be sure you make the connection between your project and the RESTORE Act criteria selected on first page. Provide citations for all reference quoted or used to support the need for and impacts of this project.)*

**Maximum 20 pts.** *How important is this project in terms of the need it meets and the goals it is seeking to achieve? How critical is the need it addresses? Is the need supported by data/facts? Is this project likely to meet its goals? Is the project approach organized and well thought out?*

8. **Budget Narrative/Financial Feasibility/Cost-Effectiveness:** *(Be sure that your responses to this question and dollar amounts used are consistent with those used in Application Project Budget, and those in Question 6.*
- *Clearly indicate and describe the estimate or actual costs of the project. [Provide any additional documentation to ensure the estimate is accurate. (i.e. tax analysis, bids from other companies, etc.)]*
  - *Clearly indicate and describe the amount and use of RESTORE Act funding request.*
  - *Identify amount and sources for your secured cash match funding. [“Cash match” is defined as actual cash contributions to project costs. “Secured cash match funding” is funding that has been committed to your project.] Please demonstrate secure match funding with documentation such as commitment letter(s) from the funder(s).*
  - *Identify amount and sources for your anticipated cash match. [“Anticipated cash match” is potential funding you have sought or will seek but is not confirmed.] Please note that an applicant must have its project’s “anticipated cash match” secured within one year of award of RESTORE Act funding. Explain, if applicable, how these RESTORE funds may be used to leverage additional funding.*
  - *If your project is also using in-kind match [“In-kind match” is defined as contribution to project costs other than cash], please identify what the in-kind match includes and how you calculate its value.*
  - *Explain how the project is financially feasible [i.e., is there a plan to cover all costs?]*
  - *Explain how the project is cost-effective [i.e., is this project a good value, is it economical in terms of the tangible benefits produced by the money being spent? provide a timeline of potential return on investment.]*
  - *Explain how the project will be self-sustainable once the RESTORE Act monies have been completely used (i.e. grants from other sources, project provides an income, etc).*

*Important\*: The RESTORE Act places a total 3% cap on administrative expenses. We are uncertain at this point how this will be applied, how "administration" will be defined or assigned, or whether projects may even be able to include administration. You must assume the likelihood that there will be NO ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES ALLOWED TO BE REIMBURSED. Please keep this in mind as you develop your budget.*

**Maximum 15 pts. Several things will be evaluated with respect to the budget including match value, financial feasibility and cost-effectiveness.**

9. **Technical Feasibility:** *(Explain how this project is technically feasible; i.e., how do you know that this is a feasible project that can be implemented and that will result in success. Describe the technologies involved. Describe relevant past experience or proven success with this type of technology and this type of project. Describe why this project is likely to succeed?)*

**Maximum 5 pts. Is this approach likely to work?**

10. **Readiness for Implementation/Permitting Considerations:** *(What steps are necessary and how long will it take to implement this project? Describe the required design and permitting work required for implementation. How far along is the design and permitting? Has it started? Is it complete? If required permits have already been obtained, please attach copies. If the design has been completed, please attach copy of the design work. If the design work has not yet begun, please tell us how long this will take. If permits are required, but not yet obtained, please discuss how you know your project will qualify for the required permits and how long will this permit process take. In other words, if your project is not shovel-ready, what is entailed and how long will it take before it becomes shovel-ready? Identify the specific milestones and timeframe for each.)*

**Maximum 10 pts. Is the timeframe realistic? Is the permitting achievable? Is the timeframe acceptable?**

11. **Project Completion Timetable:** *(Once this project can be implemented, what are the steps and how long will it take to complete the project? Identify milestones, timeframe, and how the project can be adjusted for potential shortcomings for each. Preferably, illustrate the timeline in a chart-type format.)*

**Maximum 10 pts. Timeframe realistic? Is the timeframe acceptable?**

12. **Environmental Benefits:** *(Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. Identify and quantify all environmental benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated? How long before benefits are realized? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. Please address any potential environmental impacts (i.e., loss of habitat) associated with implementing or maintaining the project.)*

**Maximum 10 pts. Are the benefits impactful? Do the benefits address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?**

13. **Economic Benefits:** *(Describe the economic benefits that will be achieved. Identify and quantify all economic benefits expected. How will these benefits be measured and evaluated?. When do you expect to see the results? Are these benefits short-term? Long-term? How will you ensure the achievement of long-term benefits? Identify the party responsible for the achievement of these benefits. Describe how your project is sustainable. (In other words, how much or what percentage of the project's services and/or benefits will still be delivered and maintained after the project is complete and/or funding has ended.) How will you monitor and ensure sustainability after the funding has ended. If this is a workforce development project please describe how the project will result in new, expanded, or retained business development opportunities and job creation. Please include detail about what types of jobs will be created? How many and when? What is the anticipated annual salary or hourly rate, are the jobs full time or part time, are benefits included, etc.? This section may require tax analysis or capital investment analysis.)*

**Maximum 10 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits? Does the project have long-term sustainability?**

14. **Community Economic and/or Environmental Resilience Benefits:** *(Describe if the project assists with our community's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover (environmentally and/or economically) from hazards or threats, e.g. hurricane evacuation, flood mitigation and prevention, future oil spills, shoreline protection, etc.)*

**Maximum 5 pts. Level of benefits? Do they address/correct/mitigate/advance a critical need/issue? Likelihood of achieving these benefits? Acceptable timeframe for achieving the benefits?**

15. **Complements to Existing Efforts/Public Acceptance:** *(How does the complement existing local, regional or state efforts/plans/objectives or on-going efforts/activities. Explain why your project does not interfere or conflict with any existing efforts, and why your project is not duplicative or any existing efforts. Also, please explain whether your project is consistent with/included in a local government Comprehensive plan, Capital plan, Mitigation Plan, Wastewater or Stormwater Master Plan, etc. Please refer to Walton County's Comprehensive Plan, Capital Plan, Mitigation Plan, and Wastewater or Stormwater Master Plan, Comprehensive Plan to Restore Walton County's Ecosystems and Economy to ensure compliance. Additionally, refer to other local municipalities for their specific plans (i.e. Defuniak Springs, Freeport, and Paxton). If not part of an already approved plan, please describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to project. Explain any efforts to determine public acceptance.)*

**Maximum 5 pts. Does the project align with county and/or municipal priorities? Is there clear public support?**

16. **Compliance with Federal, State, and Local Regulations:** *(Describe how the project complies with all regulations. Note: Additional restrictions and requirements may be applicable based on US Treasury guidance to be established pursuant to the RESTORE Act.) Provide copies of any permits already obtained. **No points awarded, since compliance with regulations is a requirement.***
17. **Project Management Capacity:** *(We expect that all funded projects will receive a high degree of scrutiny from both state and federal agencies throughout their duration both programmatically and*

financially, and will be required to comply with a rigorous standard for monitoring, reporting and auditing of both results and expenditures.

Please also note that the framework for RESTORE Act project funding has not yet defined by will likely draw significantly from federal grant guidelines, rules, regulations, and requirements.

Therefore, assuming the applicant entity will be responsible for implementing and administering its project according to federal grant guidelines, concisely:

1. Describe the education, expertise, experience and prior success of the organization and persons to implement the type and size project proposed here.
2. Describe the organization's experience with federal grant requirements, and with management of government grant-funded project of this type and size, including financial and outcomes, monitoring, reporting and auditing.
3. Describe your plan for programmatic and financial management, oversight and monitoring.
4. Describe the project management team, including the names, qualification, experience and prior success of those responsible for design, implementation, outcomes achievement, and financial management.)
5. If applicable, provide business licenses or other occupational licenses.

**Maximum 10 pts. Does the organization or sponsor have the demonstrated ability and experience to implement/administer this project, and deliver on the outcomes?**

18. **Additional Information:** (Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos, or background resources that may assist in understanding the project. Please be mindful of the electronic file size of your application. We will be forwarding this application to various reviewers/recipients electronically. Many servers do not accept large file sizes. Also limit attachments to those measuring 8x11 that can reproduced with little or no expense (limit color photos, blueprints type documents, etc.)

**SCORING RUBRIC**

**Application Score**

Project Description	20
Project Budget (Match, Financial Feasibility, Cost-effectiveness)	15
Technical Feasibility	5
Readiness for Implementation	10
Completion Time	10
Environmental Benefits	10
Economic Benefits	10
Community Resilience Benefits	5
Complements Existing Efforts/Public Support	5
Management Capacity	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Project Category Score**

Project Ranking Criteria	Ranking Percentage
1. Economic Benefit.	23
2. Environmental Benefit.	21
3. Ability of Leverage Other Funding Sources.	10
4. Long Term Implications (Value or Cost).	9
4. Comprehensive Plan Projects.	9
5. Capital Improvement Plan Projects.	8
6. Shovel Readiness.	6
7. Area of Impact.	5
7. Funding Amount Requested.	5
8. Comprehensive Plan Compliance.	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

**Total Score = Application Score + Project Category Score**

**SOLICITATION TIMEFRAME**

- Funding Solicitation Opens: TBA
- ~~Funding Solicitation Re-Opens:~~
- Funding Solicitation Closes: TBA

**TENTATIVE PROJECT REVIEW/AWARD TIMEFRAME**

- Local RESTORE Act Committee Review/Ranking Meeting(s): TBA
- BOCC Decision of Project Awards: TBA



**RESTORE Act Project Evaluation Form**

Project Name:		Sponsor:	
Estimated Project Cost	Cash Match	In-Kind Match	Total Project Cost
			\$0
Project Description:			

**Pre-Screening**

	YES	NO
1. Does project meet at least one of the RESTORE Act "Allowable Uses"? (if No, project will not be considered)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are there any existing funding sources available that would pay for this project in the next 3 years? (if Yes, project will not be considered)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Does the project meet the following eligible community need(s)? Coastal & Ecosystem Restoration & Development (examples include water quality improvements, flowway restoration, re-routing canals, artificial reefs, oyster reefs, etc.) Flood Protection (examples include canal/weir modifications, increased conveyance capacity, increased storage capacity and retention, etc.) Tourism Promotion (examples include tourism marketing, promoting local attractions/events, seafood festival; etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Ranking	Possible Score	Scored Points	Comments
4. Which "Allowable Uses" does project meet? [5 points for each, up to 40 points]			
a) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region	5		
b) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources	5		
c) Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring	5		



**RESTORE Act Project Evaluation Form**

Project Name:		Sponsor:	
d) Workforce development and job creation	5		
e) Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill	5		
f) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure	5		
g) Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure	5		
h) Activities to promote tourism and seafood in the Gulf coast region	5		

5. Quality of project [up to 70 points]			
a) Proposal is complete	0-10		
b) Realistic deadlines	0-10		
c) Ability of project to meet goal	0-10		
d) Enhances access to coastal resources	0-10		
e) Degree of impact on coastal resources	0-10		
f) Degree of job creation	0-10		
g) Achievable permitting	0-10		

6. Does project provide added benefit when combined with other projects? If so, list the other projects and added benefits in Comments. [Up to 5 pts]	0-5		
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7. Matching funds provided (matching funds can be in-kind services or cash) [Percent match x 50 = up to 25pts]	25		
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**RESTORE Act Project Evaluation Form**

Project Name:	Sponsor:
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8. Aligns with County priorities (must be a County approved or accepted plan- e.g. Watershed Management Plan, Growth Management Plan, Stormwater Master Plan, Master Mobility Plan, Tourism Annual Marketing Plan, 10-Year Beach Renourishment Master Plan, etc.) [5 points for each, up to 25 points]			
List applicable County Priorities			
	5		
	5		
	5		
	5		
	5		
<b>Total Score</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>0</b>	

Evaluator Name [print]: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## MONROE COUNTY RESTORE ACT LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### LOCAL PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

#### **I. Local Pot Funding Project Criteria (RESTORE Act, 2012)**

1. Each project is “designed to restore and protect the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, coastal wetlands, or economy of the Gulf Coast;”
2. Each project carries out one or more of the allowable uses;
  - Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats.
  - Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
  - Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring
  - Workforce development and job creation
  - Improvements to state parks in coastal areas affected by the oil spill
  - Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including ports
  - Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
  - Planning assistance
  - Promotion of tourism, including recreational fishing
  - Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region
3. Projects were selected based on “meaningful” or “broad-based” public input;
4. Projects that are designed to protect or restore natural resources must be based on the “best available science.”

#### **II. Treasury Department Requirements (August 2014):**

1. Projects are consistent with Federal Grant requirements (OMB’s Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards).
2. Projects are consistent with Federal environmental regulations: NEPA, Coastal Zone Management Act, Endangered Species, Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Clean Water Act.
3. Project applicants must meet “assessment of risk,” have DUNS number, be able to provide clear start and end dates for projects, clear outcomes and progress milestones, ability to meet stringent performance and reporting requirements.
4. Projects are consistent with Federal procurement rules, including any competitive bidding and audit requirements.
5. Projects must be able to meet certification, performance reporting, financial reporting, audit requirements, and all other requirements of the Treasury Department, and the State of Florida.

### **III. BOCC's Guiding Principles for the Local Pot (May 2013):**

- Project must meet the eligible uses and funding conditions in the Act, and any Treasury requirements.
- Projects provide positive direct environmental and/or economic benefit to Monroe County.
- Projects are consistent with local government comprehensive plans and community priorities.
- Projects incorporate other funding partners to fully leverage RESTORE funds.
- No project can encumber all of the available funds in the local pot.

### **IV. The BOCC requested that the Local Committee consider these ranking criteria (May 2013):**

1. Feasibility (financially, technically, administratively)/ Probability of Success (Are there obstacles? Can they be reasonably overcome? Does it require permits? Will it be able to qualify for nec. permits?)
2. Readiness to implement/timeframe for completion (is it already permitted? How long before implementation? How long to complete?)
3. Benefits are direct and measurable (are the benefits clear, obvious, measurable? Are they economic? Environmental? Both?)
4. Benefits are Keys-wide (Do the benefits accrue Keys-wide or are they localized?)
5. Cost-effective/return on investment (Is it worth it? What is the funding/leverage ratio?)
6. Public support (Can the project demonstrate support from the public? Is it part of an already approved comp plan? State plan? Federal plan? )
7. Clear ability to demonstrate, monitor and report on both results and expenditure of funds (Requirements for project compliance with monitoring, reporting, compliance, outcomes will be very rigorous, will the project/applicant be able to meet/manage these requirements?)
8. Applicant is able to demonstrate experience/expertise related to project, ability to manage project type/size, and ability to manage gov't grant/contracts. (Due to the rigor of reporting/monitoring/auditing requirements, the administration of these projects will require resources and experience, does the applicant demonstrate this ability/experience?)

### **V. The Local Committee subsequently developed an application with questions and a point system that reflects each of these criteria (BOCC approved July, 2013):**

- Project Description: *20 points*
- Project Budget (Match, Financial Feasibility, Cost-effectiveness): *15 points*
- Technical Feasibility: *5 points*
- Readiness for Implementation: *10 points*
- Completion Timetable: *10 points*
- Environmental Benefits: *10 points*
- Economic Benefits: *10 points*
- Community Resilience: *5 points*
- Complements Existing Efforts and Plans/Public Support: *5 points*
- Compliance with Federal, State, and Local regulations: *No points, all projects must demonstrate this.*
- Project Management Capacity: *10 points*

**The Local Committee also ranked the Allowable Uses of RESTORE Act funding, and included this ranking in the application, but did not specifically account for the ranking in the point system. Here are the Act's allowable uses, in the ranked order of the Committee (BOCC approved July, 2013):**

- # 1: Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats.
- # 2: Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- # 3: Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including ports
- # 4: Promotion of tourism, including recreational fishing
- # 5: Workforce development and job creation
- # 6: Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- # 7: Improvements to state parks in coastal areas affected by the oil spill
- # 8: Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring
- # 9: Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region
- #10: Planning assistance

**The Local Committee discussed the possibility of the relative merits of additional criteria for project prioritization; the committee determined that it would retain its current criteria, and would consider these as “secondary considerations,” depending on the ranking outcome.**

- Geographic distribution
- Geographic impact of benefits
- Projects likely to leverage state and council pot funding (in order to maximize overall RESTORE funding to Keys.)

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Projects are scored related to the anticipated benefit it will provide in each category with a maximum of 5 points possible per category. Guidelines for scoring each category are provided below.

### 1. Provides Restoration and Protection of Natural Resources (NR)

0- No increase or net increase in protection of natural resources is anticipated by the project or program actions.

1- Identified NRs to be protected but Project only projected to causes a minor increase in NR protection through implementation of existing BMP practices. No new services provided to the public and no public lands set aside or placed into conservation easements. Protective and/or restorative measures estimated to have limited long term beneficial effect (less than 5 years).

2- NRs identified for protection and/or restoration. However, lands are not protected in long term ownership or easements in public trust. The life of the protective and or restoration measures expected to be viable for at least 10 years but will require maintenance and/or substantial repairs within that time frame.

3- NRs identified and will be protected and/or restored and project designates specific lands to be set aside for long term protection in easements or title ownership. Lifespan of protective measures more than 10 years with only minor repairs and maintenance anticipated.

4- New lands set aside and conservation easements and encumbrances recorded in perpetuity or complete ownership in public domain engaged. Public education and benefit elements from the resources have been included in the project. Lifespan of protective measures is estimated to be at least 20 years with only minor repairs and maintenance required and more substantial repairs or maintenance after 20 years.

5- New conservation lands created providing wildlife corridors set aside and owned by public or state lands. Actively protects native species especially T&E species or Species of Special Concern; and/or long term protection of other natural resources such as minerals, archeological sites, etc. the protected or restored NR are fully sustainable with no maintenance or repairs anticipated after 20 years or only minor occurrences after 20 or more years.

### 2. Mitigates damage to fish, wildlife or natural resources

0- No change in current status to mitigate damages to fish, wildlife, or NR.

1- Project indirectly halts any existing impacts to fish, wildlife or natural resources. No action is planned to restore or repair any previous damage that has occurred. Any mitigation will occur naturally and over a long duration. No change in current wildlife or fish status. Long term water quality improvement achieved.

2- Project intentionally halts existing impacts. Has some limited direct impact as well as long to mid-term indirect impact. Positive impact noted on recreational fishing and wildlife use. Natural resources benefit to a limited degree. Some short term water quality achieved.

3- Minor immediate impact seen in correcting damage. Fish, wildlife and natural resources damage is immediately mitigated although on a minor scale. Invasive species are eradicated or significantly reduced. Water quality is improved in the short term.

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4- Immediate impact noted. Indirect effects permanently felt. Public health is positively increased to some degree. Growth or recovery from previous damage noted immediately. Economic growth due to actions noted. Long term water quality improvement is achieved.

5- Action results in immediate, long term correction of damage. Public health is positively increased. Invasive species removed. Long term potential to correct endangered or threatened status. Other benefits such as economic growth are realized as a result.

### 3. Implements a federally approved marine or coastal conservation plan

0- Does not implement a federally approved marine or coastal conservation plan.

1- No growth of the current status. Fisheries monitoring created on a minor basis. Recreational fishing areas developed.

2- No growth on status however fisheries status is monitored for greater than the short term. Recreational fishing and other watersports develops as a result.

3- Some increases in the size and scope of the current conservation plan. Fisheries monitoring completed on a regular basis. Seasonal recreational use rises significantly as well as other watersport use.

4- Conservation plan increases in both size and scope. Fisheries monitoring is conducted on a routine basis with positive results noted. Annual increase in recreational use.

5- Broad increase in the fisheries development as a result of the project. Monitoring occurs on a frequent basis. Conservation areas are significantly increased in size resulting in a positive impact on the aquaculture industry.

### 4. Workforce Development and Job Creation

0- Project does not provide any opportunity for additional jobs within the private or public sector. Work can be performed through existing roles or jobs are lost through the termination of a job provider.

1- Project provides an increased backlog of available work for existing workers within the County and maintains the current number of public and private sector jobs.

2- Project demands that part-time jobs be created to perform necessary work within the project schedule.

3- Project creates 5-10 full-time positions which are necessary to perform work related to the project within the schedule determined for project execution. Upon project completion, 1-5 jobs (part-time or full-time) are created to staff any long-term result of the project.

4- Project provides for the creation of 20-30 jobs related to the construction/implementation of the project or as a result of the project's completion. All jobs are filled by a local resident.

5- Project provides a significant increase of jobs provided by an entire industry.

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## 5. Improvements to an impacted coastal State Park

0- Project does not provide any benefits or improvements to a State Park impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

1- A portion of the project indirectly provides benefits to a State Park which has been impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

2- Less than 50% of the project directly provides improvements to a State Park impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and the project is not specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park.

3- A significant portion of the project (more than 50%) directly provides improvements to a State Park impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; but the project is not specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park.

4- A significant portion of the project (more than 75%) directly provides improvements to a State Park impacted by the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill; and the project is specifically designed for the purpose of improving the impacted portions of the State Park.

5- Project is specifically designed to improve a damaged State Park (100%) and provides significant improvements to the affected portions of the State Park. An education component is included in the project. The public experience within the State Park is significantly improved. The project adds improvements that relate to the principal feature of the State Park.

## 6A. Infrastructure Projects Benefitting Economy

0- Project has a negative impact to the economy or has no net positive benefit to the local economy.

1- Project provides an indirect, revenue generating mechanism for either the public or private sector. Growth provided in the short term with no sustainable effects.

2- Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy but not significantly. No specific local industry become more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage; however project results in an increase in local jobs.

3- Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy more significantly. One specific local industry becomes more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage and there is a projected increase in other local jobs.

4- Project provides a direct revenue generator that bolsters the local economy significantly. One or more specific local industries become more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage and there is a projected increase in other local jobs. Some new long-term residents are projected.

5- Project provides a sustainable revenue generator that significantly bolsters the local economy with two or more local industries becoming more robust through job creation, increased revenue, or increased patronage. Project results in a definite an increase in local, long-term residents.

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## 6B. Infrastructure Projects Benefitting Ecological Resources

- 0- Project negatively impacts or has no net benefit to any ecological resource.
- 1- Project has an indirect, but measurable benefit to an ecological resource. The benefit does not fully correct a deficiency or restore a function.
- 2- Project has a direct measurable benefit to an ecological resource, but the benefit does not fully correct a deficiency or restore a function (assume meets no more than 25% of such goals).
- 3- Project has a direct measurable benefit to an ecological resource with benefit, enhancement, or restoration goals, and the benefit does not fully correct a deficiency or restore a function (assume meets at least 50% of such goals).
- 4- Project has a direct measurable benefit to an ecological resource with benefit, enhancement, or restoration goals, and the benefit corrects a deficiency or restores a function to at least 75% of such goals).
- 5- Project has a direct measurable benefit to an ecological resource with benefit, enhancement, or restoration goals, and the benefit corrects a deficiency or restores a function to at least 90% of such goals).

## 7. Coastal Flood Protection and Related Infrastructure

- 0- Project does not reduce flood protection to a portion of the community nor has no net increase in flood protection to a known flood prone area.
- 1- Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods but provides no measure for increasing the flood protection for those areas; or project may indirectly provide minor benefit to flood prone area.
- 2- Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods and provides means for measuring the increase in flood protection for those areas (Level of Service [LOS]); or project may indirectly provide a fairly significant LOS benefit to flood prone area.
- 3- Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods; and there is more than 50% increase in the LOS to a large flood prone area (more than 100 residents) or a 75% increase to an area with less than 100 residents.
- 4- Project identifies areas potentially affect by floods; and there is more than 75% increase in the LOS protection to a large flood prone area (more than 100 residents) or a 90% increase to an area with less than 100 residents.
- 5- The project's primary goal is to improve stormwater level of service for the local community. The project includes sustainable solutions that include long term, large scale drainage improvements that do improve known flood prone areas to acceptable LOS with 90% LOS improvement to large scale (more than 100 residents).



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## 8. Promotes Tourism and Recreational Fishing

- 0- Does nothing to promote Tourism. No impact on current status.
- 1- Project spending anticipated having little effect on tourism. May affect local tourism on an event level basis. Some income generated for local business only and only for a short time period.
- 2- Some effect on tourism expected on a seasonal basis. Some economic income for the local area or city created as well as for small businesses.
- 3- Multi-seasonal impact. Generates some significant economic income for the local city.
- 4- Multi seasonal to year round impact. New generation of economic income created. Income effects multiple cities in the county.
- 5- Year round draw of new people to the area. Large amounts of economic income created. Entire county benefits.

## 9. Promotes Seafood Consumption Harvested from Gulf Coast Region

- 0- No additional seafood consumption created or project has the potential to negatively impact the seafood industry.
- 1- Small amount of seafood consumption created. Anticipated that the local seafood market increases sales of seafood consumption by less than 5% and catch rates do not increase noticeably.
- 2- Increased amount of seafood consumption created (more than 5%) . Little positive effect on the seafood industry occurs, in general, but catch rates increase some.
- 3-Noticeable positive effect on the seafood industry. More than 10% increase in seafood consumption anticipated. Includes habitat restoration and anticipated increase in catch rates of identified species by 5% or more.
- 4- Industry growth experienced. Some positive effect on the local economy seen because of seafood consumption increase. Anticipated increase more than 15%. Catch rates of identified species more than 10%.
- 5- Industry experiences new growth and invigoration. Measurable positive impact on the economy as evident by more than 20% increase in seafood consumption. Significant increase in the catch rate and production of new seafood products (by more than 15% in identified species).

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## 10. Timing

- 0- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized more than 10 years away.
- 1- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 7 to 10 years away.
- 2- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 4-7 years away.
- 3- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 2-4 years away.
- 4- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 1-2 years away.
- 5- Initial effects of the project benefits projected to be realized 0-1 years away.