

**PASCO COUNTY
RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES

OCTOBER 13, 2016

**PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF
PAULA S. O'NEIL, CLERK & COMPTROLLER**

**THE MINUTES WERE PREPARED IN AGENDA ORDER
AS PUBLISHED AND NOT IN THE ORDER
IN WHICH THE ITEMS WERE HEARD**

6:00 P.M.

**WEST PASCO GOVERNMENT CENTER, BOARD ROOM
8731 CITIZENS DRIVE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA**

Committee Members:

Jack Mariano, Board of County Commissioners
Kathryn Starkey (Alternate), Board of County Commissioners
Cynthia Armstrong, School Board Representative
Dr. Lisa Richardson, College/University Representative
David Sumpter, Science or Fisheries Representative
Jeffrey Lowe, Job Creation Industry Representative
Bill Cronin, Pasco Economic Development Council Rep
Kristin Tonkin, Tourism Representative
Bob Robertson, Citizen Representative – **ABSENT**
Bruce Mills, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Rep

Staff: Mr. Curtis Franklin, RESTORE Act Program Coordinator

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mariano called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**INVOCATION
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Tammy Glisson, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Glisson called the roll. Mr. Sumpter arrived to the meeting at 6:11 p.m., Commissioner Starkey arrived to the meeting at 6:14 p.m., Ms. Tonkin arrived to the meeting at 6:46 p.m., Mr. Cronin arrived to the meeting at 6:50 p.m., and Mr. Bob Robertson was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are given an opportunity to comment on any proposition coming before the Committee during Public Comment. The Committee also takes Public Comment on items to be placed on a future RESTORE Act Advisory Committee agenda.

The following individuals spoke regarding the Ranch Road/ Aqua Utilities agenda item; Mr. Alan Highsmith, Ms. Margaret Highsmith, and Mr. Erick Simpson. Key comments and concerns included FGUA ponds flooding a neighborhood; stormwater management issues; changing the water supply from FGUA to Pasco County; creating a dog park for the community; bio-hazards of standing water; sewage running into homes and retention ponds; a master ditch that was cleaned out by County Staff; a collapsed pipe on Rhineback Drive; and flooding in the Palm Terrace community.

Chairman Mariano spoke regarding flooding on Ranch Road, a visit by the Governor, and draining at the end of the channel.

Mr. Victor Rodriguez spoke regarding stormwater pumping, a hard pipe temporary fix, estimated costs for septic to sewer conversions, and proper stormwater drainage.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Minutes from August 3, 2016 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

Motion to approve the RESTORE minutes of August 3, 2016; motion carried.

2. COMPS

Dr. Bob Weisberg gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the COMPS Buoy C14 program, related products, the history of the project, the proposition of reinstating

and sustaining buoys, meteorological and oceanic variable reports, how the data collected by the buoys was used, COMPS observations, the number of buoys presently deployed, COMPS model forecasts, hurricane storm surge, how the project addressed scoring criteria, real-time measurements, and the proposed terms for re-establishing the program.

The Committee Members and Dr. Weisberg held discussion regarding fixed RESTORE Act funding; having the program extend along the entire Florida coastline; Deep Water Horizon; lack of funding for coastal ocean observing; Coast Guard search and rescue operations in the surrounding region; cause and effect data collection; funding from the Integrated Ocean Observing System Program; how buoys in Pinellas County were funded; and future multi-county presentations.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

3. Madison St. Stormwater

Ms. Dana Gaydos, GHS Environmental representative, introduced Mr. Barret Doe, Public Works Acting Assistant Director for the City of New Port Richey. Ms. Gaydos gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the Madison Street & Gulf Drive Stormwater Retrofit Project, both phases of the project, nutrient and pollutant loading, how the project addressed scoring criteria, improved water quality, and cost estimates for both phases of the project.

Mr. Barret Doe, Public Works Acting Assistant Director for the City of New Port Richey, spoke regarding construction schedules and SWFWMD funding qualifications.

The Committee Members and Ms. Gaydos held discussion regarding estimated costs; cooperative funding between SWFWMD, the City of New Port Richey, and Pasco County; SWFWMD rules regarding project contributions; and Best Management Practices (BMP) to ensure reduced contaminants.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

4. Hudson Reef

Mr. Mike Smith, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the Hudson reef project components, the current layout, pictures of the 2016 reef assessment, donated materials, growth progress, how the project addressed scoring criteria, diving tourism, and a television show based out of Hudson called "Catching Hell" which filmed at the site.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding reef locations within the

County; cost estimates; and implementation timeframes.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

5. Inshore Reef

Mr. Mike Smith, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed proposed enhancement of the Cottee River rocks, the inshore artificial reef project components, the Phil Foster Snorkel Trail located on Florida's east coast, and how the project addressed scoring criteria.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding cost estimates; permitting requirements and processes; implementation timeframes; the location of the project; ecological impacts; marketing funds for projects with tourism aspects; benefits available for the School District; the public's accessibility to the project; structure types that could be placed in the reef; and the potential for the reef to be a regional project.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

6. Key Vista/ Bailles Bluff

Mr. Mike Smith, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the restoration of Key Vista/Bailles Bluff, project components, the project's location, pictures of Rocky Creek, how the project addressed scoring criteria, Indian artifacts previously found at the site, and proposed dredging of specific areas.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding the development of a recreational travel park; increased boating and fishing activities; limited resources; boater improvement and FEMA funding; cost estimates; implementation timeframes; and the Army Corps permit requirements.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

7. Ecological Planning Unit

Mr. Keith Wiley, Natural Resources Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the acquisition of the Coastal Marshes Ecological Planning Unit (EPU), the definition of an EPU, the EPU map, ELAMP's connection to EPUs, Coastal Marshes EPU objectives, the number of identified acres, available ELAMP funding, Policy CON 1.4.4 Intergovernmental Partnership requirements, and RESTORE objectives.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding cost estimates; identifying

critical land acquisitions; properties that were not generally developed; targeted geographical areas; matching funding; ELAMP funding flexibility; and passive recreational use of the subject properties.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

8. Crews Lake Natural systems Rehydration

Mr. Jeff Harris, Environmental Biologist and Project Manager Utilities, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the cause for ecological function losses, potential funding from FDEP and the Water Management District, the impacts of wellfield drawdowns on the region's hydrologic systems, wellfield groundwater withdrawals at the Cross Bar Ranch, proposed mitigation, water elevations at Crews Lake, the historical outline of Crews Lake, permitting challenges, project concept, cooperative funding from SWFWMD, benefits to County Departments & citizenry, quantifiable ecological benefits, and measured water levels during the rainy season.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding cost estimates; why the 4G Ranch Project was completed before the Crew Lake Project; DEP permitting processes; the potential of a flood attenuation project; nutrient pollution controls; how surrounding counties handled stormwater; connecting reclaimed water lines to create a regional project; the capacity of the Boyette Reclaimed Water Reservoir made it the largest in the country; residential use of reclaimed water; potential cooperative funding sources; legislative funding requests; potential Pot 2 allocations; the project was submitted to the Tampa Bay Estuary Plan as one of the County's five inputs; the project was regional in nature; and SWFWMD funding requirements.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

COMMISSIONER STARKEY LEFT THE MEETING AT 7:31 P.M. AND RETURNED AT 7:38 P.M.

9. Central Pasco Beneficial Water Reuse

Mr. Jeff Harris, Environmental Biologist and Project Manager Utilities, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the location of 4G Ranch, wellfield groundwater withdrawals, background and project overview, the number of dry lakes on the subject property, project details, hydrogeological evaluation, hydrology driven biological diversity, and the expected environmental benefits.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding the number of acres of aquatic habitat being created on uplands; mitigation credit requirements; the DEP requirement that adjacent property owners not be impacted; how to control water

dumping; Tampa Bay Water pumping at Crossbar Ranch; cooperative funding requirements; and funding reimbursements that would free up funding for other projects.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

10. Septic To Sewer Conversion

Mr. Jeff Harris, Environmental Biologist and Project Manager Utilities, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed convertible septic systems, projects tasks and challenges, and the estimated costs.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding what was included in the estimated cost; breaking down converting costs for individual neighborhoods; neighborhoods where flooding and contamination occurred; the cost to convert 395 parcels in the Sea Pines neighborhood; identified challenges; adjusting the score sheet to reflect two specific communities; reclaimed water line installation during road repairs/construction; a DEP presentation given at the Springs Council meeting; plans to combine the Aripeka and Weeki Wachee Spring sheds; applications previously submitted for spring funding; and the amount of available funding.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

11. Ranch Road/ Aqua Utilities

Ms. Pam Lynch, Program Coordinator Utilities, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed the Jasmine Lake/Palm Terrace Water Quality Improvement Project, the project's purpose and description, the amount of funding needed to payoff FGUA bonds and the challenges and benefits.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding projected bond payoff timeframes; flooding/sewage water collecting in surrounding neighborhoods; available funding from various sources; creating parks for the community; the number of homes affected by flooding; blight caused by sewage; a cooperative funding application that was submitted to SWFWMD; Staff was working on an application for State Revolving funds; Staff's recommendation for funding the project; project grading on the merit of how it related to RESTORE; the funding allocation process for the Waterfront Park Revitalization Project; how to leverage funds to receive the highest benefits; available land suitable as a park site; and pipe installation near the Iron Bark community; acquisition timeframes; requirements of the State Expenditure Plan; and the ranking process.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

12. Coastal Trail

Mr. Mike Smith, Parks & Recreation Supervisor, gave a PowerPoint presentation which reviewed a feasibility study, Coastal Trail project components, the area of concentration, and how the project addressed scoring criteria.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding the trail's path; the economic benefits of a trail in Pinellas County; and the lack of water quality benefits.

The item was for information only. No action was taken.

13. Discussion on Grading

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding Pot 1 funding allocations; the amount of funding being planned out; cooperative funding; the ranking list and allocations were for a 15-year plan; first rankings should be with consideration of cost importance, ease of implementation, and completion timeframes; grading sheet modifications; a separate grading sheet for the septic to sewer conversion; the importance of following scoring criteria; project implementations; to avoid influence Staff did not include timing grades; how other counties were choosing projects; and using all available funding on the most important project.

14. Other Business

Commissioner Starkey noted that Mr. Cronin and Mr. Sumpter were absent during the CERN Presentation. She asked if a School District representative could present the project to Mr. Cronin and Mr. Sumpter.

The Committee Members and Staff held discussion regarding how missed project presentations should be given to committee members; and audio presentations from the meeting were sent to Mr. Cronin and Mr. Sumpter.

COMMISSIONER STARKEY LEFT THE MEETING AT 8:50 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Dana Gaydos spoke regarding maintenance costs associated with the COMPS Buoy project and a City of Tampa project that was similar to the Crews Lake project.

Mr. Victor Rodriguez spoke regarding inshore snorkeling programs, the CERN project benefits, stormwater and sewer bills, using all available funding on the most important

project, sewage bill amounts from Pinellas and Hillsborough counties, and the stormwater situations in other countries.

ADJOURN


The Committee adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2016



Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Clerk & Comptroller

Prepared by: _____


Tammy Glisson, Records Clerk II
Board Records Division