

Escambia County Restore Act Committee presentation 19 August 2013

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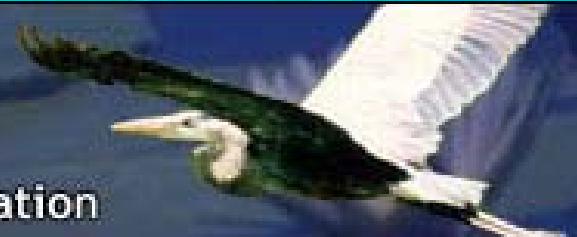
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<http://uwf.edu/cedb/>



CEDB

The Center for Environmental Diagnostics & Bioremediation



Caveats:

- Conflict of interest!
 - I will be involved in submitted ideas/projects
- Treasury rules for use of funds still unknown!

RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DUTIES

Section 3 of Resolution R2012-150



- A. **The committee shall develop a plan**, taking public input into consideration, that sets forth the final goals for the community's use of the subject RESTORE funds.
- B. **The Committee shall review projects** submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration of funding pursuant to the RESTORE Act. The Committee shall assign each project proposal into one of **three categories: economic development and job creation, environmental, and infrastructure**. A project may only be submitted for funding in one category. At the Committee's discretion, similar projects may be combined into a unified project proposal. Projects with a total estimated cost lower than \$500,000.00 will not be considered for funding using RESTORE Act funds.
- C. **The Committee shall establish ranking criteria** for its review of project proposals. The Board of County Commissions shall review and approve the ranking criteria developed by the Committee prior to the ranking of project proposals.
- D. **The Committee shall rank each project and compile aggregate ranked lists** of the projects submitted in each category. The Committee shall then submit the lists to the Board of County Commissioners for review and approval. The Board of County Commissioners may adopt a timeline for the ranking and approval process and any other deadlines it deems necessary. This timeline and other deadlines shall be binding on the Committee.

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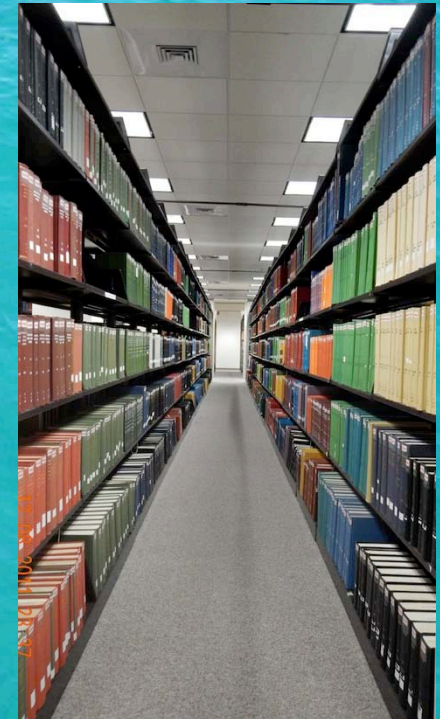
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Existing assessments (lots of documents!)

- TMDL process, 303d list (DEP; DOH)
- SWIM plans (NWFWMMD)
- Grand Jury Reports 1999, 2003
- CEDB-UWF Reports
- CEDB-UWF virtual library
- TNC Watershed Working Groups



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Regional impacts

Cultural enrichment and disturbance

- nutrients, waste, siltation, chemical pollution
- hurricanes, floods, development in high risk areas

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Restore Act Restoration Council Initial Comprehensive Plan



1. **Restore, Enhance, and Protect Habitats**
2. **Restore, Improve, and Protect Water Quality**
3. **Protect and Restore Living Coastal and Marine Resources**
4. **Restore and Enhance Natural Processes and Shoreline**
5. **Promote Community Resilience**
6. **Promote Natural Resource Stewardship
and Environmental Education**
7. **Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes**

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1. Water Quality

monitoring status and trends:

locating impairments, old and newly emerging

documenting improvements

remediation of impairments at the source

ensure the conditions for restoration project success

2. Restore, enhance, and protect ecosystems

Restoration: repairing damage to former status

Enhancement: ecosystem engineering

Preservation: management, land acquisition

3. Public education: stewardship, ethics

4. Community resilience as infrastructure, workforce & economic development

5. Improve Science-Based Decision-Making Processes



Santa Rosa County submittal form check boxes



- Restoration/protection of natural resource
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife & natural resources
- Implementation of federally approved marine, coastal or conservation management
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improve State Parks in coastal areas affected by oil spill
- Infrastructure projects benefiting economy or ecological resources
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- Planning assistance
- Administrative Costs (max of 3%)
- Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region

RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE DUTIES

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- B. The Committee shall review projects submitted to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration of funding pursuant to the RESTORE Act.

The Committee shall assign each project proposal into one of three categories:

- [1] economic development and job creation,**
- [2] environmental,**
- and**
- [3] infrastructure.**

A project may only be submitted for funding in one category. At the Committee's discretion, similar projects may be combined into a unified project proposal. Projects with a total estimated cost lower than \$500,000.00 will not be considered for funding using RESTORE Act funds.

Restore Act Restoration Council Draft Initial Comprehensive Plan



- **Planning** – development of ecosystem restoration projects and programs; cost estimates; the scientific foundation for a proposal; and public engagement.
- **Technical Assistance** – feasibility analysis; design; permitting; environmental review and compliance; and evaluation and establishment of monitoring outcomes and impacts.
- **Implementation** – construction; public outreach and education; and measurement, evaluation, and reporting of outcomes and impacts of restoration activities.

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Grant Selection Process

- Pre-proposal request to screen applications
 - Ask for full proposals from those selected for further review
 - Encourage similar/overlapping projects to combine/collaborate
 - Provide feedback to those selected and those rejected
- Keep the project categories broad
 - Do not limit ideas or innovation
- Make evaluation criteria specific and objective
 - Clear instructions on information desired for evaluation
 - Numeric score (weight requested sections of a proposal) + subjective comments
 - Review the proposal, not just the idea

Limit length of pre-proposals and full proposals

Stipulate structure to facilitate review and comparison
- Anonymous scientific and technical review (outsourced)
- Panel discussion of reviews
 - numeric and subjective assessment
 - may involve invited presentations
- Review of top ranked projects by BCC priorities

Proposal structure and Review Criteria

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon/>

<http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm?tab=1>

- Abstract
- Project description
 - Current situation and need
 - Alignment with selected goals/RESTORE act mandates
 - Technical feasibility
 - Environmental benefits, resilience
 - Economic and social benefits, resilience
 - Integration with existing efforts
 - Complies with existing regulations
 - Business plan/sustainability
- Estimated Project Costs and any matching funds
- Qualifications of key personnel
- Letters of support (collaborators, key stakeholder groups)

Weight sections with a percentage importance to the whole for numerical ranking

Additional considerations in review and ranking

- Do No Harm in ecological-engineering projects
 - Kissimmee River
- Sustainable business plan
 - built it and hope they will come?
 - build it and dump it on taxpayers?
- Measures of success
 - Monitoring/assessment included in project
 - Critical for continued funding
- Environmental sustainability
 - Sea level rise

Recommendations

- No need to reinvent the wheel, just find the right wheel style to fit the task.
- Specify proposal structure and review/ranking criteria aligned with final goals.
- Use external scientific and technical review as a starting point for ranking projects.

