

Escambia County Draft Selection Criteria

With Supporting Definitions and Descriptions

Baseline Criteria (Regulatory and Programmatic)
<p>1. Regulatory Compliance. Proposed project will conform to all applicable federal, state, and local laws and codes including, but not limited to American’s with Disabilities Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Davis-Bacon Act, Florida Building Code, and Escambia County Land Development Code.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicant has read and agreed that the project must meet all applicable federal, state, and local laws and codes including, but not limited to American’s with Disabilities Act, National Environmental Policy Act, National Historic Preservation Act, Florida Building Code, and Escambia County Land Development Code.
<p>2. Budget Justification. Proposed project budget includes reasonable and justifiable costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Project budget is sufficiently detailed. b. Costs are practical and are appropriately aligned with project activities.
<p>3. Timing. Proposed project can be implemented and benefits realized within a reasonable and acceptable timeframe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicable permits and permissions have been obtained b. Project planning and design is complete / project is shovel ready
<p>4. Applicant Capacity. The project team has knowledge and experience in executing this type of project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Applicant has organizational and financial stability b. Identified project team has experience with proposed project type
<p>5. Monitoring Plan. Proposed project includes a comprehensive monitoring and success measurement plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Proposed project includes applicable periodic maintenance b. Proposed project establishes monitoring plan and applicable success measures

Environmental Criteria
<p>1. Habitat Restoration. Proposed project restores the structure and function of upland, coastal, bays, bayous, wetlands, riparian areas, and marine natural systems, benefiting native flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Restores function – natural hydrological function, tidal connections, soil composition, and/or fire regime b. Restores structure – Increases vegetation or beneficial substrate in riparian, shoreline, or wetland areas c. Removes non-native species d. Removal of fish passage barriers e. Benefits listed species (threatened and endangered)

<p>2. Habitat Conservation and Preservation. Proposed project maintains or improves the structure and function of upland, coastal, bays, bayous, riparian areas, and marine natural systems, benefiting native flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishes conservation easement or wildlife corridor b. Reduces unnatural disturbances c. Implements or establishes habitat management plan or other best practice
<p>3. Water Quality Improvement. Proposed project reduces point and nonpoint sources of pollutants entering local waterways, provides treatment to improve water quality, or proposes other measures which will improve water quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Source reduction – reduces pollutant loading from point sources, installation of BMP’s b. Source reduction – reduces pollutant loading from nonpoint sources – reduces impervious surface coverage, installation of BMP’s, sedimentation c. Treatment – provides treatment for nutrients or legacy contaminants d. Improves impaired (303d) waterway
<p>4. Natural Systems Resiliency. Proposed project increases ability of natural systems to withstand disasters and adapt to changing environmental conditions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Stabilizes shoreline/provides wave attenuation b. Increases species and/or ecosystem adaptability to changing conditions c. Provides for natural successional progression d. Improves air quality

Economic Criteria
<p>1. Tourism and Tourism Opportunities. Proposed project provides for increases in tourism activity through new or additional marketing efforts, improvements to existing attractions, or addition of new destinations or attractions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Increases recreational fishing opportunities through addition of artificial reefs, oyster reefs, boat ramps, fishing piers b. Provides increased or additional public access to the waterfront c. Promotes consumption of local seafood d. Increases total annual visitor count
<p>2. Job Creation. Proposed project provides for new seasonal, temporary, part time, full time, and/or higher wage jobs within the County.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Creates temporary, seasonal, or part time jobs b. Employs 1-10 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage c. Employs 11-25 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage d. Employs more than 25 people with equal to or more than average annual median wage e. Jobs created are in targeted industry
<p>3. Industry and Business Growth. Proposed project directly contributes to expansion of existing industry/business or siting of a new industry/business in aviation & aerospace, high tech manufacturing, information technology/cyber security, telecommunications, renewable energy, or other targeted industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provides for expansion of existing business in targeted industry b. Provides for new business(es) in targeted industries c. Measurable GDP increase

- d. Project Return on Investment (ROI) is:
 - i. 3:1 or better
 - ii. Between 1:1 and 3:1
 - iii. 1:1 or less

4. Workforce Development. Proposed project provides innovative higher education, job training, or other workforce training/career development which increases the total skilled workforce pool and advances opportunities for higher wage employment.

- a. Improvement to existing workforce program
- b. Provides industry focused training resulting in certification for trainees
- c. Addresses workforce gaps in targeted industries
- d. Targets “at-risk” groups for job training

Infrastructure Criteria

1. Transportation Network Improvements. Proposed project improves components of existing transportation network or adds new features to transportation network such as roads, sidewalks, bike lanes, multi-modal paths or trails, streetlights, and urban/street landscaping.

- a. Improves existing roads and bridges or provides new roads and bridges
- b. Provides additional bicycle and pedestrian improvements
- c. Incorporates complete streets design including street lighting, traffic calming, and pedestrian safety
- d. Adds to or improves multimodal network including ports, railways, and mass transit
- e. Improves existing or adds new greenway paths and trails

2. Flooding Improvements. Proposed project provides structural improvements or additions which will reduce flooding to homes and businesses, thereby reducing overall disaster costs and increasing economic resilience.

- a. Proposed project will decrease frequency and/or intensity of flooding events
- b. Retrofits, repairs or replaces existing stormwater management infrastructure
- c. Strategically adds new stormwater management components such as attenuation ponds, new flow and level controls, or other stormwater BMPs

3. Community Resiliency. Proposed project increases community resiliency by strategically retrofitting, upgrading, or replacing critical infrastructure, utilizing renewable energy, or by implementing other disaster preparatory mechanisms.

- a. Repairs or upgrades existing infrastructure
- b. Repairs or upgrades existing critical infrastructure
- c. Strategically adds new critical infrastructure, which reduces community vulnerability to natural and manmade disasters
- d. Includes disaster planning measures
- e. Includes necessary addition of shelters or evacuation routes

Bonus Criteria (Additional Points)

1. Benefits Traditionally Underserved Persons or Areas. Proposed projects improves opportunities for disadvantaged or traditionally underserved persons or areas, such as low-income areas, areas of minority concentration, persons with disabilities, persons with limited English proficiency, etc.

- a. Project located in low income, very low income, or primarily minority neighborhood (as defined by U.S. Census tract)
- b. Project incorporates universal or creative ADA design beyond the minimum requirements, providing increased access for persons with disabilities
- c. Training and job creation benefits minority persons or groups
- d. Project benefits other traditionally underserved groups such as persons with limited English proficiency, ex-offenders, homeless persons, or the elderly

2. Community Health. Proposed project improves community health through health improvement programs and health education.

- a. Project provides affordable access to healthy food
- b. Project proposes to reduce sickness, disease, mental health issues

3. Neighborhood Benefits. Proposed project provides neighborhood benefit such as increased affordable housing, reduction in crime, or significant aesthetic improvements.

- a. Increases access to affordable housing
- b. Helps reduce crime / increases safety
- c. Project is located in CRA, brownfields area, Enterprise Zone, etc.

4. Local Preference. Proposed project utilizes local labor force or promotes local small businesses.

- a. Utilizes local labor
- b. Promotes small local businesses

5. Education and Awareness. Proposed project includes early childhood education or environmental outreach component.

- a. Project includes public education or targeted education component
- b. Preserves cultural resources

6. Consistency with Local Plans. Proposed project is consistent with or implements existing adopted plans.

- a. Project is identified in an adopted SWIM Plan
- b. Project is identified in other adopted watershed management plan, such as BMAP, etc.
- c. Project is identified in Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- d. Project is identified in adopted Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)

7. Green Design. Project incorporates green design elements such as LEED principles or other energy and water efficiency/ conservation measures.

- a. Project integrates LEED principles or other energy efficiency and conservation design features
- b. Project integrates water conservation design features beyond minimum standards
- c. Project includes renewable energy component
- d. Project includes other sustainable or low impact design feature

8. Leverages funds. Proposed project provides for in-kind or other supplemental funding, increasing fund leveraging.

- a. In-kind matching funds provided
- b. Other local/state grant matching funds provided
- c. Parallel federal matching grant funds provided

Sources / References

1. Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC). Draft Project Selection Process Framework for First Round MIP Development. Draft. December 2014.
<http://www.restorealabama.org/documents/MIP%20Proposed%20Process%20Flow%20Chart.pdf>
2. Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council. Restoration Project Suggestion Form. February 2014.
<http://www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org/pdfs/ProjectSuggestionFormGuide.pdf>
3. Bay County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee. Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund Partial Multi-Year Implementation Plan for Bay County, Florida. September 2, 2014.
<http://new.co.bay.fl.us/uploads/documents/1252/file/BaypartialMYIP20140902.pdf>
4. Collier County. RESTORE Act Project Evaluation Form and Explanation of Evaluation Form. July 2013. <http://www.colliergov.net/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=49075>
5. Dewberry Watershed Improvement Plan Selection Matrix. 2007.
6. Escambia County Community Redevelopment Agency. Brownsville Redevelopment Plan. 2004. Cantonment Redevelopment Plan. 2014. Englewood Redevelopment Plan. 2009. Palafox Redevelopment Plan. 2007. Warrington Redevelopment Plan. 2010.
7. Escambia County. Escambia County Comprehensive Plan 2030. May 2014.
8. Escambia RESTORE Advisory Committee. Interim Needs Assessment for Escambia County RESTORE Planning. Version 2.2. Adopted January 5, 2015.
9. Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Bayou Chico Basin Management Action Plan. August 2011.
10. Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council "Final Initial Comprehensive Plan." August 2013.
11. Hernando County. RESTORE Act Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economics of the Gulf Coast States Act 2012, Guiding Principles. Feb 2014.
<http://www.colliergov.net/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=47094>
12. Lee County, RESTORE Act Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. April 16, 2014.
<http://www.leegov.com/RestoreAct/Documents/Restore%20-%20April%2016%202014%20Minutes.pdf>
13. Levy County, Florida. Pot 1 RESTORE Act Scoring Criteria Guide. No Date.
<http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>
14. Monroe County. RESTORE Act Project Funding Submittal Form. August 2013.
<http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=632>
15. National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund Funding Priorities. Accessed January 2015. <http://www.nfwf.org/gulf/Pages/fundingpriorities.aspx>

16. Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Early Restoration Project Selection Criteria. Spring 2013.
http://www.doi.gov/deepwaterhorizon/upload/TC_Toolkit_EarlyCriteria_FINAL_6_12_13.pdf
17. Northwest Florida Water Management District and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Pensacola Bay System Surface Water Improvement and Management Plan. October 1997.
18. Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee. Draft Environmental Factors Scoring Sheet. November 2014. http://www.co.okaloosa.fl.us/doc/news/2014/restore_11-05-14_presentation.pdf
19. Okaloosa RESTORE Advisory Committee. Draft Evaluation Tool and Quantitative Factor Significance. September 29, 2014.
<http://www.colliergov.net/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=47094>
20. Pinellas County. RESTORE Act Project Priorities. Accessed December 2014.
http://www.pinellascounty.org/restore/pdf/Goals_Priorities_Eligible_Activities.pdf
21. Restore Escambia. Proposal for Selection of RESTORE Act Projects in Escambia County, Florida. January 6, 2014.
22. Restore Escambia. Competitive Preference Priorities. January 5, 2015.
23. Santa Rosa County Local RESTORE Council Project Scoring Sheet – Environment, Economic Development, Workforce Development, Infrastructure, and Tourism Selection Criteria. December 2014. <http://www.santarosa.fl.gov/bocc/restore.cfm>
24. University of West Florida HAAS Center, email dated October 30, 2014.
25. U.S. Department of the Treasury. Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012 (RESTORE Act). Federal Register Vol. 79, No. 158. August 15, 2014.
26. Walton County. RESTORE Act Project Submittal Form. No Date.