

Local RESTORE Act Pot 1 Committee
Minutes
October 25, 2017

localrestoreact@co.walton.fl.us

The Local RESTORE Committee met on Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 4:30 PM Freeport Community Center, Freeport, FL

The following Committee members were present: Tim Pauls (Tourist Industry), Crystal Steele (Health and Human Services), George Abert (Coastal Restoration and Management), Frank Schupp (Economic Development), Trey Nick (Fishing Industry), Bruce Naylor (Business North End of County), Amy Stoyles (Business South End of County), Cindy Neale (Educator), Laurie Hood (Community Leader), and Brandon Elkins (Arts and Culture).

Committee members not present: Dr. Matt Aresco (Environmental).

Staff members present: Commissioner Sara Comander (Chairman), Melinda Gates (Environmental Specialist, Coastal Resource Liaison), Billy Williams (RESTORE Act Coordinator) and Melinda Wickham (Commissioner's Aide).

Guest present: Casey Cuchens, Rob Neale, Tracey Ybarra, Paul Arthur, Donna Amend, Andy McAlexander and Mike Willis, Walton County Federal Lobbyist.

A quorum was present and proof of Public Notice was given.

Sara Comander Chair, opened the meeting at 4:30 PM.

Welcome: Commissioner Comander opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Committee member Introductions: Since there are members present that were not here at the last meeting; Commissioner asked that everyone introduce themselves. Commissioner Comander asked that everyone introduce themselves and tell how they represent the community.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion by George Abert to approve the minutes as written, with a second by Brandon Elkins. Motion approved unanimously.

Current Project Status Walton County RESTORE Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP).

Ms. Gates explained the Pot 1 application and evaluation process. The first Local RESTORE act committee had 17 projects that were submitted to the BCC for approval; one of the projects was removed because it was a storm water project that was not accessible. The BCC approved to hire an outside firm to develop the MYIP, which was submitted to the US Department of Treasury (Treasury) for approval. The next step in the process is to develop an application for each of these projects that will be submitted to Treasury for approval. Discussion ensued about who in the county will be responsible for monitoring these projects. However, that is yet to be determined. These will be monitored by

County staff. Ms. Gates explained that the original 17 projects recommended, by the Local RESTORE Act Committee, will be funded by the TransOcean Penalties (approximately \$5.7 million). After the first round of projects were approved by the BCC, an additional deposit of approximately \$1 million occurred from the Anadarko penalties assessed. That additional \$1 million was added to the previously approved projects, to address administrative cost and inflation cost for building. She went on to explain that the deposit schedule for the BP penalties started April 2017 and will continue until 2031. Walton County will receive approximately \$2 million per year from the BP penalties until 2031. The total amount Walton County will receive from these direct component penalties is \$38,257,126.65.

Further discussion ensued about who will be monitoring these new projects, it is possible that the administrative operational structure will have to look at outside assistance. Questions arose about the interest that is being earned on these funds; it was explained that all interest will go into the Pots 4 and 5 RESTORE funds for the sciences projects.

Mr. Williams explained that Mr. Mike Willis, Walton Counties Federal lobbyist, has facilitated all of the meetings with Treasury and Walton County representatives.

RESTORE Act & Triumph Overview – “A Collaborative Model”: Mr. Williams explained that the Triumph board consist of seven members and this is the first time that this has been done and there were no rules or guidelines to follow in this process and the next phase is for the board to develop “rules of engagement” of which are actually being developed as the process proceeds. Everything about the process is complicated, the statute has changed and the language is contradictory. Mr. Williams continued to explain that Triumph and RESTORE are two separate entities, but they can be leverage for funds between them. The Triumph board voted to prescreen application projects which have to be submitted to Walton County by October 31st, to the BCC by November 7th and to Triumph by November 15th. Treasury makes the rules and dictates what can and can’t be funded. Mr. Williams is looking at matching projects to maximize funding sources; i.e. federal and state grants. We need to do everything that we can to have projects ready for a realistic timeline for approval by year end. The legislature can swept these funds to be used for disaster recovery, so we need some very good projects.

Economic & Environmental Collaboration: Mr. Williams called Mr. Darryl Boudreau, The Nature Conservancy, to discuss an Estuary Program Project. Mr. Boudreau explain by partnering with Okaloosa, Walton, Holmes and Washington Counties, the project will link Eco-growth, Environmental Health and Tourism through an estuary program that the POT 1 monies could be used for.

Mission, Structure, Duties and Responsibilities: Mr. Williams explained that the partnering with the local educational programs will give us the opportunities to create high end jobs. Walton County has a need for trained skilled labor. He explained that Walton County has three good hot spot areas that has the potential to boost the economy. The fact that Walton County has been designated an area of Rural Economic Opportunity, can help fast track the process. Mr. Pauls made a motion for staff to develop a process to accept and agree on projects; structure, process and implementation of a management plan. Mr. Naylor made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Questions and Public Comments: General discussion ensued about the process, projects and which projects may or may not be acceptable and how we can utilize the funds Walton County will be receiving.

Next Local RESTORE ACT Committee—Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at the Freeport Community Center, 6040 Business 331, Freeport at 4:30 p.m.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Melinda Wickham, Commissioner's Aide, District 4.