

RESTORE Act Committee  
Public Meeting  
April 9, 2013

Attendees: Ryan Bell, Board of County Commissioners  
Shenley Neely, Board Employee Representing County's Interest  
Chris Cowart, School Board Representative  
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution  
Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture  
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative  
Bruce Wilson, Tourism Industry Representative  
Andrew Gude, Citizen Representative  
Vacancy, Development/Job Creation Representative  
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney  
Bill Williams, SCG Governmental Affairs

Comm. Ryan Bell opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Chris Cowart followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

Comm. Bell proceeded as temporary chairman with introductions, all members introduced themselves and gave their occupations.

Ms. Brown, County Attorney gave a brief overview of the oil spill and the resulting lobbying at the federal and state levels of government which led to the creation of the RESTORE Act. Ms. Brown further explained that there are additional funds from the Clean Water Act that will be directly channeled to the counties in Florida. Ms. Brown said there are several pots of money and the Committee will be dealing with applications to secure some of those funds available which will be further explained by Bill Williams, SCG Governmental Affairs consultant.

Ms. Brown explained that the Committee is governed by the Florida Statutes concerning open meetings and must comply with Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics statutes. Ms. Brown said all of the meetings will be opened to the public, will require some public participation, and must be noticed appropriately. Ms. Brown further explained what records of the meeting are public records, including the minutes, recordings, emails, text messaging to mention a few. Ms. Brown explained that without proper public notice no two or more members of the Committee can meet to discuss any of the issues that are presented. This includes any telephone or electronic communications. Ms. Brown also explained Conflicts of Interests and the requirements on declaring same. Mrs. Brown gave a review of the process of responding to a public records request and requested if any Committee member which receives a public records request to contact her office

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immediately for proper compliance with the Florida Statutes.

Ms. Brown provided a handout with an overview of the Sunshine, Public Records and Ethics requirements.

Mr. Williams introduced himself and explained his past involvement prior to the RESTORE Act with the oil spill on the Gulf coast. Mr. Williams said there are different pots of money from the BP oil spill resulting from penalties, criminal fines and civil fines. Mr. Williams said additional monies will probably be forthcoming resulting from the current law suit before the federal court in Louisiana.

Mr. Williams explained projects must be reviewed and approved by the Committee and then referred to the Board of County Commissioners with the Committee's recommendations. Mr. Williams said while in the review it must also be considered that even though there is approximately \$500,000.00 currently available to Levy County, some of the projects may qualify for the other groups of money that will be controlled in different ways. Mr. Williams gave some examples on a project where the money from "pot 1" may be used as a match to obtain a larger sum of money from other "pots" depending on the scope of the project, the area of benefit and other criteria. Mr. Williams said currently the federal rules still have not been written but the projects must be submitted by July, 2013.

Mr. Williams said that TransOcean has already settled for \$4.5 billion from civil and criminal penalties and fine and that money is being handled by the US Fish and Wildlife and only used for restorative benefit and that is being considered state-wide.

Mr. Williams further explained that some of the discussed funds are not certain, however, the projects must be ready for consideration in order to even be able to apply for these uncertain funds. Mr. Williams further explained that South Florida already has extensive projects that they have been attempting to secure funding for years so they have a head start on the North Florida counties who have not suffered the extensive environmental problems that have occurred in South Florida. Mr. Williams said this will not preclude funding for North Florida projects but the North Florida counties must work in unison with the other counties in the state to secure the funding within the State of Florida.

Comm. Bell added that these are competitive dollars and the larger pots of money are big issues.

Mr. Williams provided a handout which was reviewed and discussed on how projects match what funds and how the available funds can be most efficiently used to benefit Levy County. Mr. Williams also discussed how the various agencies, federal and state and the universities and colleges can be contacted and use of the information that they have the resources to compile to support projects.

Mr. Williams said the Committee needed to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and recommended bi-monthly meetings for the next 30 to 60 days.

Comm. Bell suggested that nominations be opened for Chairman. Chris Cowart moved to nominate Ryan Bell as Chairman of the RESTORE Act Committee, second by David Pieklik, and the motion carried.

Comm Bell recommended that the Vice-Chairman be someone who resided within the community, however, there were no guidelines controlling that. Bruce Wilson nominated Chris Cowart for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Andrew Gude and the motion carried.

After discussion among the Committee members it was decided by consensus of the Committee that the meetings would be the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of each month. Marilyn Radner indicated that the College of Central Florida have a conference room with audio capabilities that could be used for meetings. The Committee decided by consensus that the next meeting will be Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. and will be at the Levy County Court House, Board of County Commissioners meeting room.

Mr. Williams asked the Committee members to call him if they had any questions and provided his contact information. Mr. Williams cell phone number is (850) 227-6422 and email is [bill@scggov.com](mailto:bill@scggov.com). Mr. Williams said he can discuss issues with any of the members on an individual basis and it will not violate the Sunshine Law as long as it is not polling.

Marilyn Radner recommended contacting Suzanne Mills the Human Resources Director for A & N Corporation for the vacant position on the Committee along with Michael Biskey of Monterey Boats.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

  
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Ryan Bell, Chairman  
RESTORE Act Committee

Approved this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2013