

**RESTORE ACT  
Public Meeting  
June 13, 2013**

Attendees: Ryan Bell, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners  
Chris Cowart, Vice-Chairman, School Board Representative  
Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture  
Bruce Wilson, Tourism Industry Representative  
Andrew Gude, Citizen Representative  
Vacancy, Development/Job Creation Representative  
Vacancy, Citizen Representative  
Fred Moody, County Coordinator  
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney  
Amber Davis, Statecraft

Absent: Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution (college/university)  
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative

Comm. Ryan Bell opened the Town Hall meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 6:00 p.m. at the Cedar Key Community Center. Mr. Chris Cowart gave the invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag.

**Town Hall Meeting, Cedar Key, FL**

Chairman Bell said there were some housekeeping items to dispense with prior to the commencement of the Town Hall meeting. Chairman Bell asked for a consensus of the Committee to cancel the Committee meeting on July 9, 2013 and on August 27, 2013 scheduled prior to the Town Hall meeting in Fanning Springs.

Chairman Bell requested all attendees to sign in and to identify themselves when they addressed the Committee. Chairman Bell explained how the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee was formed to be a point of contact for the public, to review project applications for Pot 1 funds, assist in directing projects to the appropriate Pots for funding using the funds that was awarded by OPA and the Clean Water Act as a result of the BP Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Chairman Bell introduced Ms. Amber Davis, consultant for the County.

Ms. Davis provided an introduction on the establishment of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and the need to be aware of various funding methods and the Committee acting as liaison to educate on the issues that will affect Levy County. Ms. Davis explained that the funds were penalties from the oil spill which triggered the Clean Water Act and the subsequent enactment of the RESTORE Act which provides funding to the five (5) affected states for ecological, environmental damages. Ms. Davis said this legislation was handled different in Florida where a percentage of the funds will go directly to the affected counties who sustained actual damage from the oil spill and the coastal counties who were indirectly affected.

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Ms. Davis presented a power point which explained the percentages on the breakdown of the possible funds to be expected from penalties and fines and how those funds can be applied to local, regional and state-wide projects.

Ms. Davis explained that the funds in Pot 1 would be local funds that will be specifically for Levy County and that the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee has been charged with informing the public on how those funds can be applied for, creating an application and process for scoring the projects, reviewing and recommending specific projects to the Board of County Commissioners for approval. Ms. Davis said once there are funds the money will remain in a trust fund and will be disbursed as projects are approved and not held in County coffers with the federal government retaining the interest.

Ms. Davis described the ten (10) categories on how the funds can be used and recommended "thinking outside the box" for collaborative partnerships, public/private partnerships on projects.

Ms. Davis said the project application will be available on-line at the Levy County website after July 1, 2013 and that the Committee will hold a series of Town Hall meetings in the various municipalities within the County and then will hold a workshop after concluding the Town Hall meetings.

Ms. Davis discussed the various funding sources which are designated as Pot 2 which will be submitted to the state and has a deadline of July 6-7 in accordance with federal law. Ms. Davis explained that the treasury rules still are not available so changes could be forthcoming and the projects are being submitted without the treasury rules.

Ms. Davis explained how the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council is comprised and the formula for disbursing the funds under their control.

Ms. Davis continued explaining how the Pot 3 (Gulf Consortium only) and Pot 4 (Centers of Excellence) funds will be controlled and the expected uses of the funds.

Ms. Sue Colson, City of Cedar Key council member asked how the County was weighing projects, consideration to be given on restoration, enhancement of resources and environment.

Chairman Bell said the projects would have to be submitted and reviewed and the funds would be available to projects county-wide. Chairman Bell added that it would be possible to use funds from Pot 1 as leverage for projects seeking funding from other sources such as USDA or CDBG grants and there was no restriction on using those funds as leverage.

Ms. Davis said when the project applications were available the applicant will also be expected to self-score their project and to remember that workforce, job creation are very important issues to address along with the ecological, watershed, environmental and

tourism issues.

Mr. Fred Moody advised that a workshop would be held on September 10, 2013 at the College of Central Florida and that the application and scoring sheets would be available at the Levy County website and that applications would be submitted on-line.

Chairman Bell said the Town Hall meetings are scheduled July 16, 2013 at the Inglis Community Center, July 23, 2013 at the College of Central Florida in Chiefland, August 13, 2013 at City Hall in Williston and August 27 at City Hall in Fanning Springs.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

**RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE**

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Ryan Bell, Chairman