

**RESTORE ACT
Educational Committee
Public Meeting
November 19, 2013**

Attendees: Ryan Bell, Chairman, Board of County Commissioners
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution (college/university)
Andrew Gude, Citizen Representative

Consultants: Bill Williams, Amber Davis Williams

Ms. Marilyn Ladner opened the sub-committee meeting at 2:05 p.m. at the Levy County Court House, Bronson, Florida. Ms. Ladner explained she is the Provost for the College of Central Florida, Levy Campus and welcomed the attendees from Citrus, Levy and Pasco counties. Ms. Ladner had the group introduce themselves identifying the educational institute they represented.

Mr. Bill Williams presented a brief overview of the RESTORE Act and explained the different levels of funding that is expected to be available and using academics to create a vision for the panhandle and Big Bend areas. Mr. Williams said the academic and scientific communities with public and private enterprises can look at local projects and develop regional projects for communities that could be developed with pots 2 and 3 of RESTORE Act funding.

Mr. Williams said Pasco County could be used as a model for a regional plan.

Mr. Mark Butler, Pasco County explained that what they have developed would be applicable in any of the small counties creating the ability to apply for funding from pots 2 and 3 and also creating a network of resources. Mr. Butler said Pasco County has a very strong K-12 program for environmental responsibility and be visiting other counties a network of connections can be created across the state to fill in the gaps in their program and share resources. Mr. Butler explained a lack of watershed, marine conservation and restoration initiatives provides incentive for sustainable and substantial partnerships with local/regional businesses and government entities while providing career readiness and job creation in the environmental fields. Mr. Butler said working and cooperating with others could create a network of coastal research facilities, vocational training, coastal and marine research, conservation, public awareness, community outreach and would provide degree preparation programs by beginning at the lower levels and developing the skill sets through educational programs beginning at the K-12 levels and higher education.

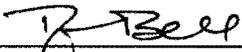
Ms. Ladner explained if students catch a passion early from exposure to environmental programs it brings a quality of life and creates quality citizens.

Mr. Williams said by trying to establish a "grass roots" campaign to obtain funding for projects on a regional basis from the funds which would be available in pots 2 and 3. Mr. Williams said the projects will be not funded if they are not regional. Mr. Williams recommended contacting legislative representations, state associations and national associations to address the issues.

Ms. Ladner said the College of Central Florida had agreed to be an originator and plans to hold a full day seminar after the new year in order to address assets, identify training assets and how to connect various projects into a "big picture."

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE



Ryan Bell, Chairman