

**RESTORE ACT
Public Meeting
May 19, 2015**

Attendees: Chris Cowart, School Board Representative, Chairman
John Meeks, Board of County Commissioners, Vice-Chairman
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education Institution (college/university)
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative
Bruce Wilson, Tourism Industry Representative
Jolie Davis, Citizen Representative

Fred Moody, County Coordinator
Wilbur Dean, Assistant to the County Coordinator
Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney
Tisha Whitehurst, Grants/RESTORE Coordinator

Absent: Leslie Sturmer, Aquaculture
Richard Streeter, Citizen Representative
Jack Schofield, Citizen Representative

Chairman Cowart opened the Committee meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 3:05 p.m. at the Levy County Court House, Chairman Cowart gave the invocation followed by the Pledge to the Flag. The roll of members was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

RESTORE ACT UPDATE PROJECT RANKING

Ms. Whitehurst advised she had compiled a summation of each project submitted, updates received from project managers and a ranking list for the project applications.

Ms. Whitehurst explained she is working with Ms. Brown and Sheila Rees in the Finance Office to apply for the planning assistance funds. Ms. Whitehurst said she has almost completed her online training webinars.

Ms. Whitehurst said the summary includes a description for each project manager of the submitted project and will be making the decision of what information should be displayed on the website. Ms. Whitehurst said the information will need to be available online for public comments to meet requirements. Ms. Whitehurst added that this summary mirrors other summaries she found being used by other counties.

Ms. Whitehurst said the project submitted by the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce for a welcome center has been withdrawn, the project submitted by Withlacoochee Area Chamber of Commerce promoting eco-tourism has \$10,000 in matching funds and the City of Cedar Key is combining their project applications to consist of 4 separate projects. Ms. Whitehurst said the City of Cedar Key also has \$12,000 to leverage on the canal project.

Ms. Whitehurst requested direction from the Committee on the procedure for scoring the Cedar Key projects currently on separate applications. Discussion ensued with the scoring of the Cedar Key projects as 1 project, scoring the 3 projects. Ms. Jolie Davis moved to score the 3 City of Cedar Key projects relating to dredging separately and then average the score, seconded by David Pielik. Ms. Ladner recommended a revised project application showing the dredging project as 1 project instead of 3. Ms. Davis amended her motion to combine the projects on 1 project application, Mr. Pieklik amended his second and the motion carried.

There was discussion on the 6 projects submitted by the City of Cedar Key. Ms. Whitehurst said there will be a total of 4 projects with the revised project applications which will be the marina dredging, Palmetto canal dredging, stormwater/drainage and the park.

Mr. Chris Cowart said he thought the Palmetto canal project had already been addressed by the City of Cedar Key and Ms. Whitehurst said the City had advised that they had \$12,000 to contribute to that project.

Mr. Cowart said the contribution of the Town of Inglis will be in-kind services as per the information sent by Dr. Richard Streeter.

Ms. Whitehurst said the Cedar Key Chamber of Commerce withdrew the project for the welcome center and the City of Williston has provided funds for the Lot 12 parking lot but there has not been any further information provided on Horseman Park. Ms. Whitehurst said the Cedar Key Aquarium & Environmental Education Center submitted by the Cedar Key Aquarium, Inc. submitted a clearer description of their project.

Mr. David Pieklik said the FOREVER: For Our Resources Eco-Vitality & Economic Resiliency would be resubmitted but not by Nature Coast Business Development Council, Inc. Ms. Ladner explained it will be a new submission with a different submittal agency (Levy County School Board). Ms. Ladner said that Ms. Carol Jones and Ms. Kathy Lawrence with the School Board were going with her to Pasco County to see the environmental training and how it works with the curriculum and follow with a request for equipment to enhance the science equipment.

Ms. Davis inquired if this would have a conflict for Ms. Ladner and Ms. Brown explained that Ms. Ladner's conflict could be waived.

Ms. Whitehurst said that Mr. Jack Schofield had sent an email advising of his non-attendance for today's meeting and asked for consideration on the 2 projects which technically would be projects for Pot 2 funding.

Ms. Whitehurst said she would be attending a meeting on the Big Bend on May 21 and would be providing any information received. Comm. John Meeks said it will not have anything pertaining to this Committee but there is a Pot 3 project involving the Big Bend area and this information will need to be obtained.

Ms. Whitehurst said she will work on the Cedar Key project applications, obtain updates for the next meeting and requested the scoring be returned and she will have the averages prepared for distribution.

Ms. Whitehurst said the process to apply for the planning money is primary as the application must be submitted by July 31, 2015.

The Committee had further discussion on scoring criteria to use and the applicability of some projects and their relation to the coastal area of the county.

Ms. Whitehurst said it is necessary to reflect public opinion. Several Committee members will re-evaluate their prior scoring and all results will be submitted to Ms. Whitehurst by June 8.

Ms. Whitehurst said after preparing and submitting the application by July 31 she will begin drafts of the Plan.

Mr. Cowart said in response to consensus of the Committee members that a review and ranking all projects, selection viable projects and review to determine if there are other funding sources will be the next steps taken.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting of the RESTORE Act Committee was scheduled for Monday, June 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. and will be held at the Levy County Court House, County Commission meeting room.

COMMENTS

Ms. Jane ^{Suchorski} ~~Sukerski~~ with Santa Fe College said the College was still committed to the project submitted for the enhancement and expansion of the research facility on Seahorse Key and is researching additional funding sources and will be submitting an update of the project.

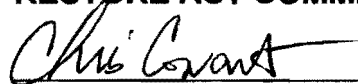
Ms. Davis moved to proceed with review, ranking project applications and selecting viable the projects and then post the summary of project applications on the website, seconded by Comm. John Meeks and the motion carried.

MINUTES

Ms. Davis moved to approve the minutes of April 21, 2015, second by Ms. Ladner and the motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE



Chris Cowart, Chairman