

**RESTORE ACT
Public Meeting of October 20, 2015**

Attendees: Chris Cowart, School Board Representative, Chairman
John Meeks, Board of County Commissioners, Vice-Chairman
David Pieklik, Economic Development Representative
Marilyn Ladner, Higher Education
Jolie Davis, Citizen Representative
Richard Streeter, Citizen Representative
Bruce Wilson, Tourism Industry 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
Jack Schofield, Citizen Representative

Chairman Cowart opened the Committee meeting of the Levy County RESTORE Act Advisory Committee at 3:02 p.m. at the Levy County Court House, Chairman Cowart lead by the Pledge to the Flag followed by the prayer. The roll of members was called.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dan Hilliard, W.A.R., Inc. provided a new update on the aquatic restoration project which was submitted. Mr. Hilliard said the Town of Inglis and the Town of Yankeetown have each made a donation of \$25,000.00. Mr. Hilliard explained in response to Mr. Bruce Wilson's inquiry that this will be a comprehensive examination of the Lower Withlacoochee River over 2 years with 5 sampling stations from the Inglis bypass spillway to the Gulf of Mexico.

RESTORE ACT UPDATE

Ms. Tisha Whitehurst explained that now the projects have been scored the Committee needs to begin the process of eliminating projects. Ms. Whitehurst said there has been no further information on the progress of proceeding with the planning and is still awaiting a response from Mr. John Stutz.

Dr. Richard Streeter recommended that the Withlacoochee River Environmental & Restoration Study submitted by W.A.R., Inc. should be updated by the applicants with the additional information of funding that has been received for the project. Dr. Streeter made a motion to rescore the project, seconded by Mr. David Pieklik and the motion carried.

Chairman Chris Cowart requested all new scores be returned to Ms. Whitehurst by November 6, 2015.

LITIGATION

Ms. Anne Bast Brown, County Attorney provided an update on the Consent Decree

which has been received. Ms. Brown explained comments on the Order can be submitted up to December 4, 2015 then the court will decide whether to approve the Consent Decree. Ms. Brown said the payment schedule is to be paid out over a period of 16 years with year 2 being less. Ms. Brown said based on the information provided Levy County is estimated to receive 2.9 million dollars, but that estimate has not been verified.

Ms. Jolie Davis said it may be necessary to review the projects that can be done immediately, some may need to be ranked higher than a project that will be spread out over a period of years. Ms. Davis said it would be \$181,000 per year and this affects the way the projects were being viewed.

The committee discussed the affect on project applications submitted. Ms. Davis said she was under the impression that there would be funds for most of the projects. Ms. Marilyn Ladner said comments should be made on behalf of the rural counties.

Comm. John Meeks moved to recommend the Board of County Commissioners submit written comments addressing payments to rural counties which fall below 2 million dollars. Mr. Bruce Wilson seconded and the motion carried. Ms. Brown will confer with Ms. Whitehurst on the contents of the written comment to be sent responding to the Consent Order.

Comm. Meeks stated that no information has been provided on what was going to happen to the interest on the money and who would receive it. Ms. Brown said she wasn't certain that the interest followed the money that is paid out.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

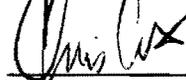
MEETING SCHEDULE

It was a consensus of the Committee that the meeting of the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee originally scheduled for November 17, 2015 will be moved to November 10, 2015, commencing at 3:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioner's meeting room at the Levy County Court House.

MINUTES

Ms. Jolie Davis moved to approve the minutes of September 15, 2015, seconded by Mr. David Pieklik and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

**RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
LEVY COUNTY, FLORIDA**



Chris Cowart, Chairman