

## **Levy County RESTORE Act MYIP**

### **Public Comment Period Opens January 8, 2018**

The **R**esources and **E**cosystems **S**ustainability, **T**ourist **O**pportunities, and **R**evived **E**conomies of the Gulf States Act of 2012, or RESTORE Act, and the U.S. Department of Treasury's regulations have directed Levy County to prepare a Multi-Year Implementation Plan, or MYIP. The MYIP prioritizes and explains the eligible activities selected by Levy County for Direct Component (also known as Pot 1) funds awarded to Levy County through the Deepwater Horizon Settlement and the RESTORE Act. In order to achieve the broad based participation from the citizens, businesses, Indian Tribes, and non-profit organizations, Levy County announces the Public Comment Period will be open January 8, 2018 on the Levy County website <http://www.levycounty.org/restoreact.aspx>.

The Levy County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) adopted Resolution 2013-25 on February 19, 2013 to establish the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee. In order to ensure that the Committee is comprised of members with diversified backgrounds, as well as the knowledge to meet the requirements described in the Resolution, the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee is comprised of the following:

- One member from the County Commission (the Chairman of the BOCC or his designee)
- One member of the County School Board or its administration
- One member from a higher education institution
- One member from the aquaculture industry
- One member from the workforce development/job creation industry
- One member with experience in economic development effort

- One member from the tourism industry
- Two at-large citizen members

The MYIP consists of a narrative, matrix, map, and attachments with information on the Levy County RESTORE Act-Direct Component projects selected by the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and approved by the BOCC. The eight projects included in the initial MYIP for public comment are as follows:

- Project ACE (Ambassadors for Conservation Education)
- Inner Marina Dredging, Dock Street Access, and Dock Addition
- Withlacoochee Gulf Preserve Research Equipment and Materials
- Lower Withlacoochee River Environmental Study
- Clam Trail in Cedar Key and Surrounding Area
- Cedar Key Wastewater Improvements
- Cedar Key Aquarium at the Nature Coast Biological Station
- Promoting Eco-Tourism in Levy County via Outdoor Information Kiosk

In preparation for submitting the final MYIP, Levy County is accepting public comment for the required 45 days for each of the projects included in the MYIP.

The RESTORE Act Advisory Committee and the Levy County Board of County Commissioners have authorized staff (RESTORE Act Coordinator) to conduct the required 45-day public comment period. This public comment period was approved by the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee on December 5, 2017 at the regularly scheduled 3 pm meeting. Upon approval of the RESTORE Act Advisory Committee, staff received approval from the BOCC at the regularly scheduled December 19, 2017 meeting to open the public comment period on January 8, 2018 and close on February 20, 2018.

Public Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

- Email, [restoreact@levycounty.org](mailto:restoreact@levycounty.org)
- Mail: RESTORE Act-P.O. Box 310 Bronson, FL 32621 Attention: Tisha Whitehurst

Following the comment period, staff will create a register of comments for inclusion in the MYIP.

Levy County will finalize the MYIP, and submit to U.S. Department of Treasury for review and approval. This process typically takes 30 to 60 day to complete. The Levy County BOCC anticipates approval of MYIP in Spring of 2018. Upon this approval, county staff will begin preparing the grant application for the eight project in the MYIP. Projects are expected to commence following the approval of the grant.