Minutes
BAY COUNTY RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
March 10, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jack Bishop, Chairman
Wayne Stubbs, Vice Chairman
Adam Albritton
Kimberly Bodine
Gail Carmody
W.C. Harlow
Becca Hardin
Dr. Steve Leach
Todd Neves

ALSO PRESENT:
Jim Muller, Bay County RESTORE Act Coordinator
Kathy Jones, County Planning Staff

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. and asked the clerk to call roll. The clerk noted a quorum was present.

B. Approval of Minutes (February 10, 2015)

Mr. Harlow made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2015. Ms. Bodine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Announcements

There were no announcements.

D. Agenda – additions, deletions, changes and acceptance

The agenda was accepted as printed.

E. Public Participation
Ms. Lyn Cherry, 200 Bunkers Drive, thanked the committee members for their hard work and dedication and asked them to have a shared vision.

Mr. Bob Zale II, 1906 Tyndall Drive, stated that fishing is “key” in the economy. He asked for the Committee to put reefs as number one in priority. He believed that opening the east pass is right behind fishing; it will help flush the bay.

Ms. Pam George, 2610 Willow Oak Court, Gulf World Marine Institute, introduced the Board and the roles they each play in the community and the promotion of rescuing sick and injured sea life.

Mr. Dave Everest, 15817 Front Beach Road, asked what brings people to Panama City Beach. People come to the white beaches and emerald green waters; he supports cleaning up the outfalls.

Ms. Heather Moncreath, 1020 Harvard Blvd., asked that the Committee look closely at the environmental issues with not so much focus on economic issues.

Ms. Jessica Koelsch, National Wildlife Federation, stated the beaches and bays in Bay County are very important; she wanted the Committee to focus on the environment and stormwater.

**F. Update on Gulf restoration topics**

Mr. Muller stated that BP was challenging a January ruling over the size of the 2010 oil spill and seeks to lower its civil penalty.

**G. Discussion of the 22 proposals**

Mr. Muller stated that the Committee members should discuss the proposals and consider their recommendations that will go to the Board of County Commissioners. This is also an opportunity for the Committee to ask questions of the applicants. He then reviewed the proposal selection process.

Ms. Carmody wanted to discuss a consensus on how to weed through the different proposals.

Mr. Stubbs stated there would be no good way to do this but look at what gives the best bang for the buck.

Ms. Bodine stated that the Board of County Commission may come back and not fund a project fully.

Mr. Albritton asked how many do they want to send up to the Board.

Mr. Muller stated the focus was on the quality of the project.

Mr. Neves thought projects should keep be considered in light of the money.

Mr. Bishop addressed the longevity of the projects.
Mr. Stubbs stated that all are good projects and the Committee needs to continue to support each one; however, the Committee needs to go through the projects and not send all of them to the Board.

Mr. Bishop said if we show vision and a plan we won’t dismiss any of them.

Ms. Carmody said she was still trying to clarify how the ranking will be done; she wanted to know how the other Committee members were going to rank the proposals.

Mr. Bishop felt the Committee should consider environmental projects first and economic projects second.

Ms. Carmody added long term benefits and diversity as considerations.

Mr. Harlow wanted projects to do something now. He doesn’t want to see it take five years to see the results.

Dr. Leach said they don’t want to go through another round like last time. He thought this was a session to get more information.

Ms. Hardin stated that is what she thought.

Mr. Stubbs said he wanted to make sure everyone was comfortable with the different proposals.

The Committee then discussed the proposals one-by-one, in order of proposal number. In some cases the Committee members had questions for the proposal applicants.

Bay PRP 2014-001 – Mr. Scott Jackson representing the University of Florida Sea Grant and Mr. Allen Golden, Bay County Planning and Zoning, representing the Artificial Reef Program.

Mr. Harlow asked how long would it take to complete the project. Mr. Golden explained as soon as it was funded it would be completed in one year. Mr. Jackson added that they had already started on applying for the permits.

Ms. Carmody asked about FWC reefs. Mr. Golden informed her that he had applied for NRDA money four years ago and he has not seen any money yet.

Bay PRP 2014-003 – Ms. Kimberly Shoaf from City of Mexico Beach.

Mr. Muller read an email supporting this project.

Mr. Bishop stated that Panama City Beach restoration was very important and it was a good idea to include Mexico Beach in this.

Ms. Bodine asked how long would it take.

Ms. Shoaf said she couldn’t answer that until they get the study done.

Bay PRP 2014-006 – Mr. Mike Zinszer from Florida State University Panama City

Ms. Carmody felt this request met objective 2.7.

Bay PRP 2014-008 – Mr. Dan Rowe, Bay County Tourist Development Council.

Mr. Bishop thought this should be looked at long term for tourism.

Ms. Carmody asked if this diversified the workforce.

Mr. Bishop stated this would extend the economic season for the beach.

Mr. Rowe added this would help strengthen the economy.

Mr. Stubbs said this project had a good impact on the economy.
Mr. Harlow asked Mr. Rowe if the project could be done for less money.  
Mr. Rowe stated that the TDC is a willing partner. 
Mr. Bishop stated that the community was lucky because sports was so heavy in July and August of 2010.

Bay PRP 2014-011 – Mr. Paul Casto, City of Panama City Beach 
Mr. Muller stated project design of this proposal would help in the long term but the proposal includes work that will also help now with water quality. 
Mr. Stubbs voiced some concerns. He was in total support of the project but was concerned about certain things. 
Mr. Cliff Knauer, Preble-Rish, representing the City of Panama City Beach stated this project will address the two most critical outfalls. The cost has gone down as estimates come in. In the first formal proposal the cost for all the outfalls was $12.5 million and it is now around 5 million. The $1 million is not for building the off-shore outfalls but does cover the cost of all 15 outfall improvements.

Mr. Neves asked what the total amount would be to extend the outfall in the gulf. Mr. Knauer said it would be $5 million.

Ms. Bodine stated she was thrilled to see cost was heading in the right direction and had some questions regarding once the improvements are made what would the results be and why Lullwater and Calypso were on the top of the list. Mr. Knauer stated the improvements will be noticeable but the algae won’t completely go away. There are many reasons for completing the outfall between Lullwater and Calypso but one reason is maintenance, it will be easier to maintain if they are combined.

The Committee took a fifteen minute break.

Bay PRP 2014-016 – Ms. Josee Cyr from Bay County Public Works Department 
Mr. Bishop asked how old the current Master Plan was. Ms. Cyr explained that it is 25 years old and needs to be brought current.

Bay PRP 2014-017 – Mr. Ron Boyce representing AMIKids 
Mr. Boyce explained that they have received five bids and the lowest is $200,000.

Mr. Neves asked for copies of the bids and Mr. Boyce stated he could supply those.

Ms. Bodine asked if this would be something the County would bid. Mr. Muller explained that this could be a “pass through” where the money would go from the County to a qualified subrecipient.

Bay PRP 2014-022 – Mr. Ken Schnell representing Bay County Public Works
There was some discussion about opening the East Pass being a hot topic in the County with some major permitting issues. Mr. Schnell was asked if the request budget could be cut and he stated that the amount requested was the amount the Corp of Engineers requires to complete the study. However, if at any point the Corp finds it not feasible then the study would be stopped and we would only be required to pay for the amount of work done.

Bay PRP 2014-023 – Mr. Al Short representing the City of Panama City Beach

The discussion was on building a system that no one was required to hook up to which causes concern for Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Bishop. Mr. Short explained that over time they will get everyone to hook up. As the septic tanks fail or need replacing the Health Department will no longer issue new permits if the system is in place, forcing everyone to hook up. There are about 200 vacant lots in the neighborhood that would be required to hook up to the central system as they are built on.

Bay PRP 2014-026 – Ms. Lisa Walter, Dr. Neal Dunn, Mr. Tom Neubauer and Mr. Herman Daniels.

This is something new for Bay County that the surrounding counties already have in place. There was some concern that all the permits were not in place but the Committee was assured by Ms. Walter that all the permits were be in place when they get the money to get started. Ms. Hardin and Ms. Bodine both voiced enthusiasm over the possibility for getting this type of communication system in Bay County. They both stated that not only would it enhance the economic alliance but also would encourage new industry to come in that are looking specifically at places that already have this type of communication system in place. Mr. Neves stated that it would be catastrophic for our county to not have this in place for future growth; he stated it would be like plugging into the communication backbone.

Bay PRP 2014-027 – Mr. Ron Hardy representing Gulf World Marine Institute

The discussion was that Gulf World Marine Institute is one of a very few in this region that helps take care of injured sea animals and is a good organization that will have many benefits to everyone for a long time. This is a good project to be looked at closely.

Bay PRP 2014-028 and Bay PRP 2014-041 – Mr. Jim Slonina representing the city of Lynn Haven and the city of Panama City

These two proposals will include stormwater issues at both locations and will have an immediate impact on water quality issues.

Bay PRP 2014-033 – Ms. Candis Harbison representing the Bay County Conservancy

This proposal cost was reduced by $100,000 and is an important part of stormwater control for this area.
Bay PRP 2014-035 and Bay PRP 2014-040 – Ms. Patrice Couch representing RMA

There are 80 water bodies that have impaired counts. The area around Carl Gray Park is one of the worst areas that need to be monitored more and a study to be done to find the reason behind the high contaminant counts.

Bay PRP 2014-038 – Mr. Mark Paris representing Gulf Coast State College

There were no questions concerning this proposal.

Bay PRP 2014-042 – Mr. Larry Hawks representing BEST

Mr. Bishop stated that something has to be done to help restore the seagrass beds.

Bay PRP 2014-043 – Ms. Linda MacBeth representing the Science and Discovery Center

Mr. Stubbs asked how much could be done with the budget they have requested because it seemed as if all the exhibits could be replaced. Ms. MacBeth stated that was their goal but they would take as much money as they could get.

Bay PRP 2014-044 – Mr. Phil Mount representing ECONorthwest

Mr. Neves wanted to know the retail value of the analysis. Mr. Mount stated he couldn’t answer that questions but he would try to get that information. Mr. Mount also stated that two cities, Lynn Haven and Panama City Beach, were in favor of this proposal.

Bay PRP 2014-045 – Mr. Bill Mahan representing the University of Florida Sea Grant

Bay PRP 2014-046 – Ms. Jamie Shepard representing the Business Innovations Center

Mr. Harlow asked if they were under negotiations with someone in the downtown area. Ms. Shepard stated they were but no final cost had been agreed upon yet. She also explained that they needed to grow and the costs were an estimate for a five year period. Ms. Bodine stated this was necessary to help grow new businesses and to grow new jobs.

H. Discussion of full proposals in the Bay County RESTORE Act Direct Component Proposal Solicitation, Evaluation, and Ranking process

Mr. Muller stated that at the next meeting on April 14 the Committee will vote to select and then rank the projects numerically to send as recommendations to the Board of County Commission. Then the Board will decide which projects they intend to add to the Multi-Year Implementation Plan and open it to the public for 45 days for comments. Once the Board finalizes the plan, they will submit it to the Treasury.
I. Public Participation

There was no other public participation.

J. Adjournment at 4:47 p.m.
*****ACTION SUMMARY*****

1. Minutes    Motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes of February 10, 2015 meeting.
