



MINUTES
BAY COUNTY RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jack Bishop, Chairman
Wayne Stubbs, Vice-Chairman
Adam Albritton
George Bishop
Kimberly Bodine
Gail Carmody
Becca Hardin
W.C. Harlow
Todd Neves

ALSO PRESENT:

Jim Muller, Bay County RESTORE Act Coordinator
Pam Stanley, County Planning Staff

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and asked the clerk to call roll. The clerk noted a quorum was present.

B. Approval of Minutes (May 12, 2015)

Ms. Carmody made a motion to approve the minutes from May 12, 2015. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. The motion carried 8 to 0 to approve the minutes. Dr. Bishop abstained as he was not a Committee member during the last meeting.

C. Announcements

Mr. Muller announced that the meeting was being streamed on the internet/recorded audio and video. Meeting agenda and documents are downloadable from <http://tinyurl.com/BayRESTOREdocs>

Mr. Muller introduced and welcomed Dr. George Bishop, representing FSU PC, to the Committee. Mr. Muller also introduced Pam Stanley, the new Staff Assistant for Planning and Zoning.

D. Agenda – additions, deletions, changes and acceptance

The agenda was accepted with no additions, deletions, or changes

E. Public Participation (Limited to items on the agenda)

Jessica Koelsch with the National Wildlife Federation addressed the Pot 3 definitions, the 25% cap on infrastructure and advocated for big water quality projects.

Mr. Kent Wimmer with Defenders of Wildlife asked for the County to consider long term sustainable projects and avoid long term maintenance projects.

Ms. Jackie Cole advocated for Project #11.

Mr. Peter Gronbeck, 2130 Fox Run, advised the Committee that they need to do what is necessary to fix the Bay.

Mr. John Lewis, 6939 Hugh Drive, would like the Committee to focus on the Old Pass and the lack of water exchange. Provided Mr. Muller with a copy of an 1855 map of the Old Pass so the Committee could see the difference. Mr. Lewis advocated for Project #5.

Chairman Bishop stated that the Old Pass was a hot topic and expressed its importance on the list.

F. Election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

Motion made by Mr. Harlow to continue with current Chair and Vice-Chair. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. Motion carried 9 to 0 to continue with Mr. Bishop as Chair and Mr. Stubbs as Vice-Chair.

G. Update on Gulf Restoration Topics: Jim Muller, RESTORE Act Coordinator

Mr. Muller gave updates to the Committee on the Gulf restoration funding:

- Pot 1
- Pot 2 and the Gulf of Mexico Estuary Program
- Pot 3
- Natural Resources Damages
- SWIM Plan
- Triumph Gulf Coast

H. Identification, evaluation and recommendation of projects to be funded with Bay County's allocation of RESTORE Act Spill Impact Component (Pot3) funds – Jim Muller, RESTORE Act Coordinator

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Stubbs commented that the Committee will not know which projects to pick until they know how they are funded. Suggested a 1st choice, 2nd choice, 3rd choice process. Mr. Muller replied that it could be the same projects as in Pot 1 and he would recommend large dollar projects, one that match funds and adjust as they go.

Mr. Stubbs also wanted to know if they could escrow money. Mr. Muller advised yes, but would not let that limit what they would like to do.

Ms. Hardin asked if the ones that didn't make Pot 1 would roll or do they have to re-apply. Mr. Harlow said he thought they would have to resubmit. Mr. Muller stated that they would not automatically be funded that it was a grant process.

Ms. Carmody asked if the Consortium wanted them to decide which projects? Mr. Muller advised that they wanted us to decide how we spend the funds. It will come down to projects.

Ms. Carmody asked if all counties do the same thing, is there a better chance of doing it and showing progress? Mr. Muller replied that he thought it would.

Mr. Stubbs stated he thinks they need to get the county involved since they are going to need to manage over the 15 years. Would like to invite County staff and environmental groups. Anyone that can show management experience for long term grants can also apply.

Mr. Neves asked if there was anything preventing them from consolidating projects, say, St. Andrews Bay projects? Mr. Muller advised unless they can find some way to bond this money, it will probably be an amount to each county and they decide which one gets done first.

Ms. Carmody stated that SWIM will be complete, DEP will be working on a water quality project, and a storm water project is already underway. We don't want to narrow ourselves now. Mr. Muller advised they could look at sections like the SWIM plan or the Estuary plan as a way of prioritizing.

Mr. Stubbs asked if it would be appropriate for the County to have a workshop with interested groups and come back with recommendations. Chairman Bishop stated that the Bay should be the focus point and that the County had a list of projects on the wall. He would like consolidated ideas from staff and local groups with Mr. Muller as

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the moderator. Ms. Bodine wanted to know what type of workshop and would they have to come with an all-in project. Mr. Muller stated that because of the tight timeframe they would have to be. Mr. Stubbs wants comprehensive proposals brought to the Committee for Bay water quality and fisheries.

Mr. Harlow said to tell the Commission that they are going to have to have a later special meeting in August.

Mr Stubbs made a motion for the County staff to prepare a list of bay water quality and habitat projects, collaborate with environmental groups involved with the bay, and bring a consolidated list of projects back to the Committee in two weeks. Discussion ensued. Ms. Hardin seconded the motion. Motion carried 9 to 0.

I. Meeting Schedule

Mr. Muller will email the Committee with future dates.

J. Public Participation (Open to any issues to the Committee's responsibilities)

John Dunaway, 4000 Marriott Drive, advised that tourism was heavily impacted and to keep that thought in mind when considering recommendations.

Kenneth Bostick, 619 Harvard Blvd, stated the importance of the Jetty's and kiddie pool. Stated nothing had been done because there was no money. Advised that the Corps of Engineer had matching funds.

Patrice Couch, Friends of St. Andrews Bay, spoke in support of the Bay/water quality being a priority.

Peter Gronbeck, 2130 Fox Run, stated that there was not enough water exchange when the red tide hit because of the East pass issue. Stated we needed to clean-up storm water pollution from the plant on North Bay and Carl Gray Park.

Lilly Newsome, commercial oyster harvester, stated they were working hard on the recycle oyster shells program to rebuild beds. Also stated that the red tide and the Massalina Bayou issue had impacted their progress.

Kent Wimmer with Defenders of Wildlife stated that he supports what Patrice Couch said with regard to Bay water quality.

K. Adjournment at 4:43 p.m.

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*******ACTION SUMMARY*******

1. Minutes Motion carried unanimously 8 to 0 to approve the minutes from May 12, 2015. Dr. Bishop abstained.

2. Motion Motion carried unanimously 9 to 0 to continue with current Chair and Vice-Chair.

3. Motion Motion carried unanimously 9 to 0 for the County staff to prepare a list of bay water quality and habitat projects, collaborate with environmental groups involved with the bay, and bring a consolidated list of projects back to the Committee in two weeks.