

**Restore Webinar Questions  
February 26, 2013**

Q: Will the PowerPoint presentation be available for download?

Q: You mention work that the agencies have completed, working together to examine existing projects or initiatives. How can we obtain the findings of this examination?

Q: The Governor is an approval step in the plans from the county?

Q: What is the best way to submit projects for consideration?

Q: Where can we access a copy of the power point presentation?

Q: Can we get a copy of this presentation?

Q: Thank you. Is there a closing date for submission to the FDEP intake portal?

Q: Are NGOs, citizens and landowners limited by Florida project submittals for Gulf Coast Council consideration re Pot 2 funds for ecological projects?

Q: How does the state's list of priorities mesh with those of the Gulf Council and how will any differences be resolved?

Q: Is this the presentation that will be done at the meeting?

Q: DEP has developed 5 priority areas for projects different than the 5 areas developed by the Restoration Council. Please comment.

Q: When you say water "quality" projects, does that also include water quantity restoration? Clearly a major issue in Florida for the coastal zones.

Q: Do all projects have to be requested through a city or county or state agency? Can individual; not for profits submit projects?

Q: Website name?

Q: Can you tell us which existing restoration projects you are currently considering? Are Everglades Restoration projects being considered?

Q: NEPs are soliciting project applications as well as DEP. Any decision on which route will be taken?

Q: How will priorities be set for projects?

Q: How will DEP/State coordinate projects from other categories of funding?

Q: Will the development of BMPs for agriculture include legislative "teeth" to make those bmp's a reality?

Q: Can private industry (ie private lands) have access to funds for shoreline restoration / community resilience.

Q: In Florida, are there any geographical limitations on restoration projects?

Q: When will the state have its Projects/ Plan available for review and submittal to the Gov for approval and submittal to the Council?

Q: What is the timeline for submitting a project?

Q: How will the pot #1 funds be disbursed to the counties? Will there be guidelines for acceptable expenditures? What entity will be responsible for vetting projects?

Q: Who are the leaders on RESTORE Act within FL FWC?

Q: How will individual projects be managed? Is there a process for bidding on projects that may be funded? Is there an overall program management or project management frameworks?

Q: What is the soonest you expect the settlement funds to be received by the Council and/or states?

Q: What are you hearing on rule development out of Treasury?

Q: Where or will we be able to track the projects and their partial completion?

Q: Will projects be ranked by Florida for submission to the Council?

Q: Will DEP be doing a plan for how Florida wants to proceed?

Q: How would Counties, such as Washington County, which is not listed as one of the listed 24 Counties, but is within 25 miles of the Gulf of Mexico, best focus their project requests.

Q: What is the difference between suggesting projects at DEP's website and the website at <http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov/restoration/give-us-your-ideas/>?

Q: Under Cat I is each County required to submit a plan before receiving funds or is the funding automatic?

Q: Will this accelerate projects from SWIM and other water management districts.

Q: Are there preferred partnership / sponsor structures for project submittals through the portal?

Q: How are the projects submitted to FDEP going to be coordinated with those that the NEP's are compiling?

Q: Is there anyway for a citizen to track the status of a project submitted by that public citizen?

Q: Will proposed projects submitted through the NRDA funding automatically be considered for funding

under pot #2 or should projects be submitted directly through the portal?

Q: Will FDEP be the contracting agency for the construction and design of the projects?

Q: How will the economy aspect play into these project submittals?

Q: Will a list of these audience questions and answers be posted?

Q: Does BP have a say in which projects are selected?

Q: How are you addressing the economy category that is included in the Way Forward?

Q: Is there a deadline for submittals?

Q: Can we see which projects DEP will be submitting to Council and if not available now, when will those be ready for the public and how will they be able to comment on those?

Q: Will Florida projects have measurable goals in contracting opportunities for Woman Owned Small Businesses so that they can reasonably participate in implementing restoration efforts?

Q: Is there a location where one may view the projects that have been submitted for consideration?

Q: Where can I find information on the projects that have been submitted to DEP to date? It would be beneficial to review what has been submitted as counties work on their individual projects.

Q: Has the Council talked about the timeframe over which funds will be dispenses?

Q: Will DEP/State priorities take precedence over the?

Q: If the State (DEP/FWC/WMD's) submits a project does that mean that permitting will be expedited?

Q: Why is coastal restoration projects not prioritized as one of the five categories of projects?

Q: Would DEP consider giving priority to projects where counties or consortium would provide some level of matching funds?

Q: Are the council meetings open to the public, and if so, where is the location and time noticed?

Q: Your suggested project priority for assisting DOD priority lands suggest that "base buffering" is the goal. As you know the NW FL Flyway is also a major conservation effort that takes in major watersheds feeding Apal., St Andrews and Choctawhatchee Bays from St Vincent Sound to M.C Davis lands. Some of these are major state and fed. conservation and DOD priority places but not necessarily base buffering? Will conservation of the DOD mission priorities be included in your DOD related priority consideration?

Q: Didn't the RESTORE Act set the geography for projects per each state's legal version of "Coastal Zone + 25 Miles" that is more specific than "the Gulf Coast Region" which is correct?

Q: Let me try again. Will there be a State of Florida plan that DEP develops separate from the ideas and suggestions submitted to you for consideration? Or just rely on submittals?

Q: Where is "Gulf Coast region" defined?

Q: Which counties are included in the list, please?

Q: Is there a plan in place to map and track restore act projects throughout the state and if so who will be taking that responsibility within either DEP or FWC?

Q: What is the best-guess on the timing of the ruling of the penalty payment from BP relative to the court process that began yesterday?

Q: Will DEP staff be attending/presenting at the two Council meetings (Panama City - 2/28, and St. Pete - 3/13)?

Q: Is it anticipated that certain large scale watershed/ seascape projects would have multiple funding sources (pots) for different aspects of economic/ environmental restoration?

Q: Will land conservation projects get equal consideration to restoration projects if those conservation projects protect key tributaries to the Gulf etcx?

Q: When projects ultimately get funded it would be beneficial to include a preference for locally based ecological consulting firms. Is there a protocol in place to establish this preference? Locally affected environmental should be given a competitive advantage over larger, national firms.

Q: Will you be posting all the projects proposed through the DEP portal?

Q: Can you give us the web portal address again. I missed it earlier? Thank you.

Q: Has there been any clarification from the Gulf Council about the additional priority - economic - added for pot #2. This pot was designated in the Act for environmental projects only.

Q: Please further explain the "Guidance Document" that FI will create as listed in slide titled Guidance of FL restoration

Q: As the submitted projects are reviewed and considered, will the public have the opportunity to observe the deliberations, priority-ranking, and decision-making process?

Q: Will projects that are permitted or "turn-dirt" ready get a priority

Q: Sorry for being unclear in earlier question. There has been talk of dispensing trust funds over a 30 year period. Are they considering funding over a long-term or is it a goal to dispense all the funds as quickly as they can be properly handled?

Q: Two part question: Please clarify the difference between submitting a project through the Restoration Council and the NRDA process. Also, will DEP be acting as a clearing house for all submittals regardless of "pot" thanks.

Q: To what extent will the latest scientific findings on climate change be incorporated? Will climate change resilience and adaptation be emphasized?

Q: As restoration begins with education, what is the best avenue to submit environmental education proposals?

Q: Has FDEP developed a ranking system?

Q: I was desperately taking notes - but went to [www.restorethegulf.gov](http://www.restorethegulf.gov) and saw most everything you have said. That is a great resource.

Q: Is DEP considering the economic benefits of the various proposals it is receiving - such as - the number of jobs generated, the economic benefit to the local community of the project's construction, increased tourism, etc?

Q: I've been searching the Internet during the past 10 minutes and am unable to locate the specific FL counties that would be eligible for submitting a project proposal. Please identify the eligible counties on the DEP website.

Q: Does a beach restoration project fall under the environmental / ecological category?

Q: Since the State must approve the Consortium plan, will DEP and the criteria used for pot #2 be used to identify appropriate projects for the Consortium plan/pot#3?

Q: Will there be handouts at the public meetings?