



DEP & FWC SEEK INPUT FOR PROJECTS TO CONSIDER FOR RESTORE FUNDING

Webinar: February 26, 2013



Purpose of Meeting

- RESTORE Act Overview
- Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Update
- Florida's Priorities
- Guidance for Florida Restoration



RESTORE Act Overview

- Signed into law by President Obama on July 6, 2012
- Dedicates 80% of Clean Water Act civil and administrative penalties resulting from *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund
- Transocean has agreed to pay \$1 billion in Clean Water Act civil penalties
- Uncertainty exists around the ultimate amount and timing of funds



RESTORE Funding Categories

- Category 1: 35% to Gulf Coast States
 - In Florida the money will flow directly to the 23 Coastal Counties
 - 75% to the eight disproportionately affected counties
 - 25% to the fifteen non-disproportionately impacted counties



RESTORE Funding Categories

- Category 2: 30% to Restoration Council
 - The Governor will submit a list of projects to the Council for consideration for inclusion in the initial Comprehensive Plan



RESTORE Funding Categories

- Category 3: 30% for the State Expenditure Plans under the Oil Spill Restoration Impact Allocation
 - In Florida: Gulf Consortium will develop the State Expenditure Plan



RESTORE Funding Categories

- Category 4: 2.5% to NOAA along with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Science, Observation, Monitoring, and Technology Program



RESTORE Funding Categories

- Category 5: 2.5% for the center of excellence research grants
 - The Florida Institute of Oceanography will be in charge of awarding the competitive grants for the State of Florida



RESTORE Act Funding

- Transocean \$1 Billion Clean Water Act Civil Settlement to be paid out over 2 years.
 - Category 1: Florida counties will receive \$56 Million
 - Category 2: \$240 Million to Council
 - Category 3: Approximately \$45 Million for Florida's State Expenditure Plan
 - Category 4: \$20 Million to NOAA and US Fish & Wildlife
 - Category 5: Florida Institute of Oceanography will receive \$4 Million



Treasury Regulations

- Pursuant to the Act, the Department of Treasury is responsible for coming out with regulations to establish procedures for depositing amounts in and expending amounts from the Trust Fund, however those regulations have not been released
- Therefore several questions remain as to how funding will flow




Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

- Composition of the Council
 - Six Federal members (Agriculture, Army, Commerce, EPA, the Interior, Homeland Security)
 - Five Gulf Coast States Governors (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas)
 - Decision requires yes vote by Chair and majority of the five state
 - Chair: Department of Commerce



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

- Released the Path Forward document on January 29, 2013
- The Council will provide several opportunities for public input throughout the development of the Plan
- The initial Comprehensive Plan due July 6, 2013
- Visit www.restorethegulf.gov for more information on the Council and to submit comments on the Path Forward.



Florida Project Submittals for the Comprehensive Plan

- Stormwater / Wastewater infrastructure projects
- Living shorelines / Community resilience
- Fish and wildlife habitat and management
- Water Quality Projects including those which achieve water quality benefits provided by the preservation of buffer lands around military bases
- Implementation of agriculture best management practices



Guidance for Florida Restoration

- Best Available Science
- Watershed Approach
- Florida Agency Collaboration
- Examining Existing Restoration Plans
- Guidance Document



Criminal Settlements

- Transocean: \$400 Million in criminal fines with \$150 Million being paid to NFWF
 - NFWF will receive \$21 Million over 2 years to use for restoration projects in Florida
- BP: \$4 Billion in criminal fines with \$2.4 Billion being paid to NFWF
 - NFWF will receive \$335,160,000 over 5 years to use for restoration projects in Florida

Questions & Comments

- Please type your questions or comments into the space provided and we will answer them as they come in.

Thank You!

- Visit www.dep.state.fl.us/deepwaterhorizon
- Public Meetings:
 - Thursday, February 28th at Student Union East Conference Center, Gulf Coast State College; Panama City; 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. CST
 - Wednesday, March 13th at Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute; St. Petersburg; 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. EST