

**RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA
HYBRID/VIRTUAL MEETING**

ANNOTATED MINUTES

FEBRUARY 4, 2021

**PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF
NIKKI ALVAREZ-SOWLES, Esq., CLERK & COMPTROLLER**

**THE MINUTES WERE PREPARED IN AGENDA ORDER
AS PUBLISHED AND NOT IN THE ORDER
IN WHICH THE ITEMS WERE HEARD**

6:00 P.M.

**WEST PASCO GOVERNMENT CENTER, BOARD ROOM 1ST FLOOR
8731 CITIZENS DRIVE, NEW PORT RICHEY, FLORIDA 34654**

Committee Members

Jack Mariano, Board of County Commissioners
Kathryn Starkey (Alternate), Board of County Commissioners
Cynthia Armstrong, School Board Representative
Dr. Lisa Richardson, College/University Representative
Vacant, Science or Fisheries Representative
Lauren Micelli, Pasco Economic Development Council Representative - **ABSENT**
Kristin Tonkin, Tourism Representative
Vacant, Citizen Representative
Bruce Mills, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Representative

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mariano called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Allie Knupp, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Knupp called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Ms. Lauren Micelli who was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Citizens are given an opportunity to comment on any proposition coming before the Committee during Public Comment. The Committee also takes Public Comment on items to be placed on a future RESTORE Act Advisory Committee agenda.

Mr. Nicholas Mudry addressed the dredging parts of channels and noted his background for his qualifications to help perform the changes needed in the dredging system.

Ms. Debra Leone, President for the Gulf Harbors Woodlands Association, discussed the joint dredge with Gulf Landings and a couple small areas that were now filled in again. She noted the concerns with the low amounts of water from the tides and discussed accessing a grant through stormwater funds and not just homeowners to pay the costs. She noted that the canals had not been dredged in 40 years.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

Minutes from February 6, 2020 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

Minutes from July 9, 2020 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

Minutes from December 3, 2020 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

The Committee approved the Minutes for the February 6, 2020, July 9, 2020 and the December 3, 2020 meetings.

INFORMATION ITEM:

Gulf Harbors and Hudson Channels Dredge Project Update

Mr. George Thomas, Public Works Project Manager, discussed the revised scope, price of the project, and discussed the contract. He noted the funding would come from general funds, not from stormwater funds.

Extensive discussion continued regarding where the money would come from, when it would be paid back; grandfathered in canals; raising money from property owners;

residents not wanting to be billed twice with upfront money and the MSBU; indirect or direct channels; owners of seafront properties; raising property values; funding by the RESTORE Act; the end goal being able to dredge every canal in Pasco County; setting up an MSBU and a long term plan for payments to get the canals completed.

Key Vista/Baillies Bluff Shoreline Stabilization Project Update

Mr. Curtis Franklin, Parks and Recreation Project Manager, used a PowerPoint Presentation to discuss the item. He noted this was a project approved by the Committee in 2020 and they were currently in design mode for the project. He discussed the project overview which included hardening the existing shoreline; removing the sediment at Rocky Creek and to redeposit it along the shoreline; improving amenities including the kayak launch, and improving the trail from the parking lot to the boat launch; waterside platforms for people to use to not impact the shoreline; the current budget; the selected engineering firm to perform the geotech work; seagrass surveys; permit for maintenance dredge; and the dredge proposal for the spring of 2022.

Discussed followed in detail of what area they were going to dredge; the process that would be performed; the soil displacement; exemptions from certain permitting in the legislation; application approvals; the project being similar to Anclote River Park; money to help dredge; Ballies Bluff Association; non mixing of the funds; private versus RESTORE funds conflicts of interest; leveraging; donated funds to County; combining MSBU funds was acceptable; that it was not acceptable to combine private source funding with the public RESTORE funds; and the Treasury Department.

Next Project Steps:

- **Sea Pines**

Chairman Mariano discussed the channel that had been dug out pre 1970. He noted the citizens wanted that channel taken care of as well as a few spots to be addressed.

- **Westport**

Chairman Mariano noted their channel was also pre 1970.

- **Harbor Town**

Chairman Mariano stated that the channel was owned half by the County and half by the developer and that it showed markings that went all the way up. Depending on how

the legislation came together and if it did pass, they could use that exemption and it would make the permitting easier.

Extensive discussion followed regarding the GBA Study; Pots 1, 2, and 3 funding; meeting with the Treasury Department; the process of bringing projects back; the most recent amount of funding that was available to the Committee; adding additional projects to the dredging list; pot 2 money; the breakdown on requirements for each Pot fund; approval of the State Expenditure Project; criteria for the different Pots; Pot 1 being the main one; approval process of approving funds; grade sheets for new projects; RESTORE Act process; public engagement; priority of smaller projects; and public impact.

Ms. Armstrong stated she excited to start the prevention of pollution to clear the water up. Protecting the water quality in the canals was very important.

Mr. Franklin stated that having those separators in the canals had proved to be a great idea as the Committee approved projects that had the separator structures in them already.

Discussion followed regarding the collection of the stormwater; the list of projects and completed projects; and adding projects if the funds were available.

Ms. Pamela Lynch, Project Coordinator, stated she would have to find out if there was money available and how they would go about requesting money from RESTORE, whether or not they would have to go back through the formal process, and how important having public input was.

Chairman Mariano and Ms. Krisitin Tonkin noted they each had a member in mind to fill the Citizen seat on the Committee.

Discussion followed if Mr. Josh McCart, potential Committee member and School Board employee, could sit on the Committee and there not be a conflict due to having a member of the School Board on the Committee.

- **SunWest**

The item was not discussed

Other

There were no items.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Mariano noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, April 1, 2021 from 6-8 p.m. in New Port Richey.

The Committee adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
HYBRID/VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Office of Nikki Alvarez-Sowles, Esq., Clerk & Comptroller

Prepared by: 
Allie Knupp, Records Clerk I
Board Records Division