

RESTORE ACT PROJECTS

The following projects have been approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) and each respective RESTORE funding source:

Direct Component, Administered by US Department of the Treasury (Pot 1)

- Robinson Preserve Restoration Expansion Phase III: Plant and establish desirable and appropriate coastal upland habitats in a stable and low maintenance condition on the 150-acre expansion. \$600,000
- Workforce Development: Create a pilot workforce development program with a five-year period of performance delivering each participant more than 400 hours of job-relevant classroom training and 3,000 hours of on-the-job-training in a variety of disciplines. \$619,758
- Coastal Watershed Program: Develop a coastal watershed management plan to assess improvements needed for 14 project areas of the County which were developed under old flood and drainage standards. \$620,309
- Florida Maritime Museum Facility Enhancement: Preserve and share the maritime heritage of the Historic fishing village of Cortez through expanding the capacity of the Folk School program by improving site facilities. \$225,000
- Gulf Shellfish Institute Sea Farm to Table: Provide planning assistance to be conducted by the Gulf Shellfish Institute to promote the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region. \$100,000

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Connecting Coastal Waters \$1.8 million. (Pot 2)

- Robinson Preserve Wetlands Restoration Implementation: Restore 140 acres of upland and wetland habitat on a fallow parcel recently acquired to expand Robinson Preserve. \$1.5 million
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program Implementation: This project is part of seven elements of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program that will reduce 16.5 tons of nitrogen per year, restore more than 250 acres of coastal habitat, and create 200 acres of seagrass. \$271,000

Gulf Consortium State Expenditure Plan (Pot 3)

The RESTORE Act specifies that this source of dedicated funding, identified as the Spill Impact Component, be distributed in accordance with guidelines of a State Expenditure Plan agreed to by all 23 Gulf coastal counties in the state of Florida, chartered by interlocal agreement as the Florida Restore Act Gulf Consortium.

On June 20, 2017, the Commission authorized the Chairperson to sign the transmittal letter to the Florida Gulf Consortium Chair naming the proposed State Expenditure Plan for Manatee

County's participation in the Florida Gulf Consortium RESTORE Act Program. The letter included the following projects:

1. Manatee River Oyster Restoration Project: Restore productive oyster reefs lost or degraded primarily from combined stresses of reduced freshwater flows, sea-level rise, water quality declines, historic dredging for construction materials, and associated disease and predation. \$3 million
2. Living Shoreline Creation: Portosueno Park: Replace the seawall with a linear living shoreline, as well as marsh plantings on the east side of the basin, to improve both habitat quality and diversity, as well as water quality. \$1 million
3. Palmetto Greene Bridge Fishing Pier Replacement: Demolish and replace an old concrete highway bridge, currently functioning as a public fishing pier, with a new wooden fishing pier. \$5 million
4. Applied Research for Shellfish Aquaculture and Habitat Restoration: Fund the Gulf Shellfish Institute, Inc, a non-profit organization, to conduct an applied research program to increase the production and availability of locally grown and sustainably produced shellfish for local markets. \$300,000
5. Preserve Management Plans: Develop updated natural resource management plans for preservation lands owned and operated by Manatee County. \$300,000
6. Larry Borden Artificial Reef Enhancement: Acquire, transport and deploy natural limestone boulders into an existing permitted Manatee County artificial reef site. \$1 million
7. Trail and Boardwalk Enhancements on Coastal Preserves: Construct trails and boardwalks at three County-owned coastal preserves. \$2 million
8. Coastal Watershed Management Plans: Develop watershed Management Plans for priority tributaries and their watersheds in coastal Manatee County. \$2.5 million
9. Urban Park Stormwater Improvements (G.T. Bray Park): Improve the surface water management system at G.T. Bray Park to partially restore the natural hydrologic storage, water quality treatment, and habitat functions that existed on this site prior to development. \$2.1 million
10. Robinson Preserve Expansion Coastal Uplands: To recreate coastal land to functional habitats. \$1.25 million.

The Robinson Preserve expansion coastal uplands project proposal was deleted from the 10-project list after successfully obtaining an amount from the FY19 Florida Legislative appropriation, which will be sufficient to complete the current restoration goals for the project.

The Gulf Consortium, acting by consensus as a quasi-legislative body, determined those eligible projects through an extensive application and review process, including public comment and multiple environmental agencies' review. In 2018, Florida's Governor and the RESTORE Council approved a \$292M portfolio of projects which divides the allocation equally, at \$12.7M for each of the 23 counties.

The project implementations are spread out over a 15-year timeframe of RESTORE Act structured payments. The first individual project application cycle will open January 31, 2019 following the procedures made available by the Consortium to member counties.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The Kingfish boat ramp is the most heavily used of all boat ramps in Manatee County. Emergency repairs at the Manatee County Kingfish boat ramp has uncovered severe structural deficiencies in the existing ramp and a decision has been made to commit to proceed to a total rebuild and capacity expansion for the ramp in the estimated cost range of \$4.5 million.

No other funding source is available to initiate this expansion and repair. Therefore, two SEP projects which can be implemented with alternative funding sources are being dropped from the plan, with funding freed up to be reallocated to the cost of the Kingfish boat ramp expansion.

The projects proposed to be removed are: Preserve Management Plans (\$280k) and Coastal Watershed Management Plan (\$3M), both of which may be funded through alternative funding sources.

The Gulf Consortium, in consultation with the RESTORE Council, specifies the following steps to accomplish the amendment:

1. Obtain approval from Manatee County BCC for the proposed SEP project changes
2. Provide the complete project narrative to RESTORE Council for preview
3. Present the complete project narrative and BCC approval to the Gulf Consortium with a request for action to make the SEP amendment available for public review
4. Make the SEP amendment public with a forum to receive comments for a 45-day period
5. Submit the SEP amendment to RESTORE Council after the 45-day comment period, including a statement of public participation and any necessary edits or responses to comments. Pending no significant issues, the amendment will also be submitted for final Board approval via consent agenda.
6. After RESTORE Council reviews and approves the SEP amendment, individual applications for funding can be submitted to the Gulf Consortium.