

County of Monroe

The Florida Keys



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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Monroe County Board of County Commissioners
Office of the County Administrator
The Historic Gato Cigar Factory
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 205
Key West, FL 33040
(305) 292-4441 – Phone
(305) 292-4544 - Fax

October 5, 2015

Laurie McGilvray
Program Director, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

Dear Ms. McGilvray,

On behalf of Monroe County, I am pleased to submit Monroe County's Multiyear Implementation Plan (MYIP).

Monroe County's MYIP is the culmination of a robust and transparent public process that began almost three years ago; that process is described in detail in plan. The MYIP was posted for public review and comment on July 8, 2015, and remained posted for through August 30, 2015 (for a total of 53 days.) Numerous public comments were received, all in support of plan. The MYIP was subsequently formally approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners on September 16, 2015.

The Florida Keys are a chain of islands nested in the waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), one of the largest marine protected areas in the United States, and one of two in the Gulf Region. The FKNMS is home to one of the rarest and most unique ecosystems in the world, and includes the continental US's largest living coral reef (and third largest barrier reef in the world), one of the largest seagrass beds in this hemisphere and more than 6,000 species of marine life.

Per direction from Congress, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection, developed a comprehensive, scientifically-supported Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP) that focuses extensively on improving and protecting the Sanctuary's water quality.

The scope of Monroe County's MYIP consists of three projects as ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners each of which is in furtherance of the Sanctuary's WQPP, and tracks the funds currently available to Monroe County (\$1.16M):

- Restoration of the Coral Reef (\$550,000);
- Restoration of Canal Water Quality in Monroe County (\$450,000); and
- Restoration of Canal Water Quality in Islamorada (\$100,000).

A healthy, vibrant reef is critical to the continuation of the ecosystem. The MYIP's Coral Reef Restoration Project's goal is to help re-build a threatened, fragile reef. The goal of the two Canal Water Restoration projects is to improve the poor quality of canal waters that are discharged into the nearshore waters of the Sanctuary and threaten the reef and ecosystem.

Per the Treasury's regulations, the Monroe County MYIP includes:

- The required "Matrix" outlining projects, budgets, and dates;
- The required "Narrative" describing the projects and selection; and
- A Plan Document with additional detail and requirements such as maps, documentation of formal adoption/approval, and documentation that plan was posted for public review and comment.

Thank you in advance for your review and findings of completeness and conformity with Treasury regulations. We look forward to the speedy implementation of these important water quality projects.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Gastesi', written over a faint circular stamp.

Roman Gastesi
County Administrator

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Eligible Applicant Name:

Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:

POC Name:

POC Title:

POC Email:

POC Phone:

B. PROVIDE A BRIEF NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES:

1. The need, purpose, and objectives for each activity, including a detailed description of each activity

Monroe County is submitting three projects in this application for Direct Component funding.

PROJECT 1 - Coral Reef Restoration for Environmental and Economic Enhancement of the Florida Keys

Description: The Coral Reef Restoration project will grow staghorn coral in undersea nurseries located throughout the Florida Keys and boulder coral in land-based nurseries. The coral will then be out-planted on reefs where they will kick start reproduction and reef recovery for the future. Approximately 20,000 staghorn corals of varying sizes will be planted on reefs between Key Largo and Key West. A subset of these will be part of value-added scientific research help increase the pace and efficiency of future restoration activities. An additional 10,000 small boulder corals will repair 1,000 dead coral heads using an innovative 'reskinning' technology. Staghorn and boulder coral restoration efforts will be designed to encourage the restored corals to reproduce on their own and reseed both restored and adjacent reefs. The out-planted corals will begin to spawn and contribute to the reseedling of surrounding reefs. More prolific reefs enhance the restoration and protection of the Keys' natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, and coastal wetlands.

Need: The reef system in the Florida Keys is the largest living coral reef in the Continental United States, and third largest barrier reef in the world. Coral reef areas provide critical nursery and feeding habitat for an abundance of ecologically and economically valuable sea life. Coral reefs buffer adjacent shorelines from wave action and prevent erosion, property damage and loss of life. Reefs also protect the highly productive wetlands along the coast. The reef system in the Florida Keys have been in decline for decades, and requires on-going preservation and restoration efforts to save it. Despite efforts to protect the reefs and decrease existing threats, no significant improvements in live coral cover or health have been observed. Active restoration is a proven technique to help jump-start recovery of the reefs.

Purpose: The primary purpose of this project is to restore degraded reefs in the Florida Keys through the out-planting of nursery-reared corals. A healthy, vibrant reef is critical to the continuation of the unique ecosystem of the Florida Keys.

Objectives: RESTORE objectives to be addressed by this project include environmental improvements and tourism promotion. Specifically:

- **Environmental:** Increased live coral cover; restoration of important habitat for fish, invertebrates, sea turtles; long-term impacts as out-planted corals contribute to reproductive potential of the species.
- **Economic Development:** Improved recreational and tourism value of Monroe County's reefs.
- **Community Resilience:** Healthy reefs serve as a natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms.
- **Education:** The Nature Conservancy and its partners on this project do a significant amount of outreach within the community to help educate the public about the importance of this work.

PROJECT 2 - Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration for Canals in Unincorporated Monroe County

Description: Canal water restoration projects will be constructed and implemented in canals throughout unincorporated Monroe County in order to improve the poor quality of canal waters and prevent the continued discharge of their poor quality water into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary which threatens the Sanctuary's unique and fragile coral reef and ecosystem. Restoration of impaired waters in the Florida Keys canal system will improve and protect the near shore water quality of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Keys' natural resources, ecosystem, fisheries, and marine and wildlife habitats. The health of the Florida Keys' ecosystem – and its local tourism-based economy – is reliant upon a pristine marine environment.

Need: Many of the canals throughout Monroe County are listed as having impaired waters by the US EPA and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection because they exhibit high levels of nutrients and low levels of dissolved oxygen – conditions that have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters. These impaired canal waters discharge directly into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world's most unique marine ecosystems and home to the largest living coral reef in the continental United States, the largest sea grass bed in the western hemisphere and over 6,000 species-- all of which only thrive in clean, clear waters that are low in nutrients and high in dissolved oxygen levels. Monroe County will construct and implement restoration projects that will improve the environmental quality of the waters in its canal system pursuant to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan and the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program.

Purpose: The purpose of the canal water restoration projects is to remedy the high nutrient loading and low dissolved oxygen impairing the water by addressing the most significant causes of those conditions: accumulated organics, seaweed loading ("weed wrack"), and poor flushing and tidal flow. The Monroe County County-wide Canal Management Master Plan (a plan developed in partnership with EPA, NPS, FWS, NOAA, DEP and the local governments) has identified 107 canals in unincorporated Monroe as having poor water quality and determined that each canal exhibits one or more of these contributing factors, and will require the implementation of one or a combination of restoration technologies.

Objectives: RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include environmental improvements, economic development, and community resilience. Specifically:

- **Environmental:** The project area, Monroe County ("The Florida Keys"), is surrounded by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The health of the Sanctuary's coral reef and massive seagrass beds – and all of the species that rely on these for habitat – are directly linked to near shore water quality. Both corals and seagrasses thrive in areas where water is clear (low turbidity), low in nutrients, and high in dissolved oxygen (DO). High levels of nutrients and low DO have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters.
- **Economic Development:** The socioeconomic importance of the reef to Monroe County was documented in study by the FKNMS which concluded that more than 33,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion dollars in annual added revenue are directly attributed to Florida Reef Tract (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries, 2013). Monroe County's marine-based tourism economy, and robust commercial and recreational fishing industries are all dependent on the health of the Sanctuary and good water quality.
- **Community Resilience:** Restoration of canal water will lead to a healthier reef system, greater protection of natural resources, and a stronger economy all of which contribute to the community resilience of the Florida Keys. The reef contributes to resilience by serving as natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms. Improved water quality also ensures a healthy natural environment, which in turn, ensures a healthy economy. Economic vibrancy is integral to community resilience.

PROJECT 3 - Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration in Canals Across "All Entities" in Monroe County (Islamorada)

Description: Canal water restoration projects will be constructed and implemented in canals within the municipality of Islamorada, Village of Islands, (centrally located in the Florida Keys) in order to improve the poor quality of canal waters and prevent the continued discharge of their poor quality water into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary which threatens the Sanctuary's unique and fragile coral reef and ecosystem. Restoration of impaired waters in the Florida Keys canal system will improve and protect the near shore water quality of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the Keys' natural resources, ecosystem, fisheries, and marine and wildlife habitats. The health of the Florida Keys' ecosystem – and its local tourism-based economy – is reliant upon a pristine marine environment.

Need: Many canals in Islamorada are listed as having impaired waters by the US EPA and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection because they exhibit high levels of nutrients and low levels of dissolved oxygen – conditions that have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters. These impaired canal waters discharge directly into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world's most unique marine ecosystems and home to the largest living coral reef in the continental United States, the largest sea grass bed in the western hemisphere and over 6,000 species-- all of which only thrive in clean, clear waters that are low in nutrients and high in dissolved oxygen levels. Islamorada will construct and implement restoration projects that will improve the environmental quality of the waters in its canal system pursuant to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan and the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program.

Purpose: The purpose of the canal water restoration projects is to remedy the high nutrient loading and low dissolved oxygen impairing the water by addressing the most significant causes of those conditions: accumulated organics, seaweed loading ("weed wrack"), and poor flushing and tidal flow. The Monroe County County-wide Canal Management Master Plan (a plan developed in partnership with EPA, NPS, FWS, NOAA, DEP and each of the local governments) has identified 10 canals in Islamorada as having poor water quality and determined that each canal exhibits one or more of these contributing factors, and will require the implementation of one or a combination of restoration technologies. The 10 canals considered "Poor Water Quality" were ranked based on criteria outlined in the Plan and The Village of Islamorada Selection of Demonstration Canals for Water Quality Improvements (SDC) document.

Objectives: RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include environmental improvements, economic development, and community resilience. Specifically:

- **Environmental:** The project area, Islamorada, Village of Islands, is surrounded by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The health of the Sanctuary's coral reef and massive seagrass beds -- and all of the species that rely on these for habitat -- are directly linked to near shore water quality. Both corals and seagrasses thrive in areas where water is clear (low turbidity), low in nutrients, and high in dissolved oxygen (DO). High levels of nutrients and low DO have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters.
- **Economic Development:** The socioeconomic importance of the reef to Monroe County was documented in study by the FKNMS which concluded that more than 33,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion dollars in annual added revenue are directly attributed to Florida Reef Tract (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries, 2013). Islamorada is geographically centered in Monroe County and supports a large tourism and charter fishing industry which are dependent on the health of the Sanctuary and good water quality.
- **Community Resilience:** Restoration of canal water will lead to a healthier reef system, greater protection of natural resources, and a stronger economy all of which contribute to the community resilience of the all of the communities of the Florida Keys. The reef contributes to resilience by serving as natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms. Improved water quality also ensures a healthy natural environment, which in turn, ensures a healthy economy. Economic vibrancy is integral to community resilience.

Additional information and detail is included in the Monroe County MYIP Plan Document, attached.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the plan was adopted after consideration of all meaningful input from the public.

Monroe County effectuated a broad public input process to determine the selection of projects included in this MYIP. The steps in this process are outlined in Question 5, and in further detail in the Plan Document, attached.

The projects ultimately selected, and represented in the MYIP, were those highest ranked by the County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee (a wide-ranging stakeholder group consisting of business-owners, environmentalist organizations, fishermen, and scientists appointed by the County Commission and the Commissions/Councils of each of the six municipalities within Monroe County.) The three highest ranked projects were then subsequently reviewed and approved by the Board of County Commissioners. There was a broad solicitation of applications, and all project applications received were posted on the County website for public review. The evaluation and ranking of all projects took place in open, public, and noticed meetings. All evaluation, project scores, and ranking information was (and remains) posted on the County's RESTORE Act webpage. The Local Advisory Committee met several times, and the County's RESTORE Act activities are regularly reported at County Commission meetings. The local media also regularly covers Monroe's on-going RESTORE Act activities.

Specifically related to the requirement to ensure meaningful public comment on the MYIP, the County conducted the following activities:

- July 8, 2015 through August 30, 2015: Posting of the Monroe County's MYIP and request for public comment on the official Monroe County government website, www.monroecounty-fl.gov. The County maintains a dedicated page for all of its RESTORE Act activities and various links, www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=683. The actual MYIP was posted in its entirety on this page with an email address to submit comments to County staff. (Screenshots of the County's website illustrating the MYIP posting are included in Appendix D of the attached Plan).
- July 8, 2015: Notification of the MYIP's availability for review and comment was given to the members of the Local Advisory Committee and a broad range of stakeholders, including business enterprises and not-for-profit organizations, via email blast. Notification was given to the general public of the MYIP's availability for review and comment via a press release on to all media outlets in Monroe County (a copy of the press release is included in Appendix D of the Plan Document, attached); and additional public notice was placed in each of three local newspapers (copies of the public notices are included in Appendix D).
- July 10/15, 2015: Notification to the general public of the posting of the MYIP for review and comment was also made via its placement on the published revised agenda for the Monroe County BOCC July 15, 2015 meeting, and included as part of the agenda for that meeting, which like all Commission meetings is a publicly noticed, televised, live-streamed, and recorded meeting.
- August 30, 2015: The last day of a 53-day period posting period. Monroe County received 26 public comments, all in support of the projects selected in this plan.
- September 16, 2015: The final MYIP was presented to the BOCC at its regularly scheduled, publicly noticed and televised monthly meeting. A resolution formally adopting the final MYIP after public comment period was approved by the BOCC (included in Appendix C of the Plan Document, attached).

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan matrix is eligible for funding and meets all requirements under the RESTORE Act.

In this MYIP, three (3) activities are being submitted for funding. These activities are eligible activities under the RESTORE Act as follows:

Project 1 - Coral Reef Restoration for Environmental and Economic Enhancement of the Florida Keys targets:

- (I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- (II) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- (III) Implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- (VII) Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- (b)(II) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.

Project 2 - Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration for Canals in Unincorporated Areas targets:

- (I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- (III) Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- (IV) Workforce development and job creation.
- (VI) Infrastructure projects benefiting economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

Project 3 - Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration in Canals Across "All Entities" in Monroe County (Islamorada) targets:

- (I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- (III) Implementation of a federal approved marine/coast management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- (IV) Workforce development and job creation.

4. How the applicant will evaluate success of the activities included in the matrix.

Each project will be carefully tracked so that project success can be gauged at select intervals during the course of project implementation. Additional, more detailed information re: milestones is provided in the project information sheets included in Appendix A of attached Plan.

General measures of milestones and success include the following:

- Projects are completed within projected timeframes and within budgets.
- Projects further the goals and objectives of the Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program and its federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.

Specifically, for Project 1 - The Coral Restoration Project will result in additional coral plantings, strengthening and restoring the fragile reef system; improving habitat for important reef fish species; and preserving a marine-based local economy. Measure of success: Amount of new reef coral plantings.

Specifically, for Project 2 and 3 - The Canal Water Quality Improvement Projects will result in reduced nutrient and pollutant loading to the nearshore waters, improving water quality in the Sanctuary; protecting the Sanctuary's fragile marine ecosystem; improving critical habitat; and preserving a marine-based local economy. Measure of success: Amount of nutrient loading and dissolved oxygen in canal waters.

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan matrix were prioritized and the criteria used to establish the priorities.

Monroe County conducted a highly participatory process to determine the projects it ultimately selected for award from its Direct Component funding. Below are the various elements of the County's process.

Local Advisory Committee: To ensure public participation, a local advisory committee, The Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee, was created by the Monroe County BOCC on February 20, 2013 with its adoption of Resolution 094-2013 (and later Resolution 129-2013 for clarifications). The Committee was and remains tasked with making recommendations to the BOCC for projects that are in the best interest of the County that will be funded through the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act. The BOCC gave careful consideration to the Committee's membership to ensure broad stakeholder representation, requiring that the eleven (11) members represent each of the Monroe County Commission districts and each of the municipalities within Monroe County. To date, the Committee has held seven (7) meetings that were all open and widely publicly noticed: May 16, 2013; June 12, 2013; June 28, 2013; November 8, 2013; September 26, 2014; December 11, 2014; December 12, 2014. Agendas, meeting materials, and meeting recordings were made available on the County's RESTORE Act webpage. The BOCC empowered the Committee to:

- Gain an understanding of the RESTORE project authorization and funds distribution process;
- Develop specific project evaluation criteria for the ranking of projects based on direction and Guiding Principles from the BOCC;

- Solicit projects for evaluation;
- Score and rank submitted projects; and
- Make recommendations to the BOCC for projects to be awarded with funding from the first distribution of RESTORE Act Direct Component funds.

Guiding Principles: The BOCC developed Guiding Principles for Direct Component funded projects. The BOCC intended that the Committee consider the Guiding Principles as threshold eligibility criteria for project proposals. The Guiding Principles are:

- Project must meet the eligible uses and funding conditions in the Act, and any Treasury requirements;
- Projects provide positive direct environmental and/or economic benefit to Monroe County;
- Projects are consistent with local government comprehensive plans and community priorities;
- Projects incorporate other funding partners to fully leverage RESTORE funds;
- No project can encumber all of the available funds in the local pot.

Evaluation Criteria: The Local Advisory Committee, with guidance from the BOCC, developed the following set of Evaluation Criteria:

1. Feasibility (Financial, technical, administrative)/Probability of Success (Are there obstacles? Can they be reasonably overcome? Does it require permits? Will it be able to qualify for necessary permits?)
2. Readiness to Implement/Timeframe for Completion (Is it already permitted? How long before implementation? How long to complete?)
3. Benefits are Direct and Measurable (Are the benefits clear, measurable? Are they Economic? Environmental? Both?)
4. Benefits are Keys-wide (Do the benefits accrue Keys-wide or are they localized?)
5. Cost-effective/Return on Investment (Is it worth it? What is the funding/leverage ratio?)
6. Public Support (Can the project demonstrate support from the public? Is it part of an already approved Comprehensive plan? State plan? Federal plan?)
7. Clear Ability to Demonstrate, Monitor and Report on both Results and Expenditure of Funds (Requirements for project compliance with monitoring, reporting, compliance, outcomes will be very rigorous, will the project/applicant be able to meet/manage these requirements?)
8. Applicant is Able to Demonstrate Experience/Expertise Related to Project, Ability to Manage Project Type/Size, and Ability to Manage Government Grant/Contracts.

Project Solicitation Process: The Committee then established a Project Funding Submittal Form (application) and application procedure. The Project Funding Submittal Form was designed to reflect both the Guiding Principles and Evaluation Criteria. Once approved by the BOCC, the Committee solicited and accepted applications for projects in compliance with RESTORE Act eligibility criteria. Monroe County's Project Funding Submittal Form was released on July 19, 2013, with applications due by December 20, 2013 (after one deadline extension). Notice of funding availability was made via BOCC meetings, press releases, website announcements and media coverage. Forty-six (46) applications were received in response. All project submissions were posted, in their entirety, on the County's website. The County also made numerous public announcements that project submissions were posted for public review.

Project Evaluation: The Committee evaluated all project submissions during its December 11 and 12, 2014 meetings, within the course of one and a half days – one full day for presentations and another half day for Committee discussion, scoring, and compiling. The Committee's project evaluation meetings were publicly noticed with announcements on the County's website, announcements at County Commission meetings, email blasts, and notices in local newspapers. The meeting materials-- agenda, presentation schedule, and Committee members' scores and rankings, and video-recording of the meeting were (and remain) posted on the County's website. The Committee heard thirty-seven (37) presentations in total (not all 46 applicant chose to make a presentation to the Committee). The presentations enabled proposers to discuss projects with the Committee and provided an opportunity to Committee members to ask follow-up questions on the written submissions. After hearing all presentations, the Committee members finalized their individual scores.

Project Scoring and Ranking: After evaluation of written applications and hearing presentations, the members' individually (and privately) scored each project. Individual scores were then compiled and tallied. Submissions with the highest total scores were ranked the highest. Individual scores, total project scores, and project rankings were all presented at the meeting. Members of the public, officials from the various municipalities, and the proposers were all in attendance and given opportunity for input.

Project Award: The final ranking was a Committee recommendation forwarded to the BOCC for final approval of the projects. The Committee's recommended project ranking was presented to the BOCC for discussion and formal selection at their February 2015 monthly meeting. After presentation and discussion, the BOCC approved the three (3) top-ranked projects. Again, members of the public were in attendance and there were no objections or comments expressed regarding the BOCC's final awards.

MYIP: The three highest ranked and Commission-approved projects are those that appear in this MYIP. The posting and availability of the draft MYIP for public review and comment was presented at the July 15, 2015 County Commission meeting; and the final MYIP with a resolution to formally adopt the MYIP was presented to and approved by the BOCC at its September 16, 2015.

Not applicable at this time.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1505-0250. Comments concerning the time required to complete this information collection, including the time to review instructions, search existing data resources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information, should be directed to the Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Program, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20220.

MONROE COUNTY



MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

RESTORE Act Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund

FINAL

September 16, 2015

Contact:

Lisa Tennyson, Director of Legislative Affairs

Office of the County Administrator

Tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov

(305) 292-4444

SUPPLEMENTARY PLAN DOCUMENT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION	1
II. THREE ACTIVITIES IN THE MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	2
III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION	2
A. Advisory Committee	2
B. Public Information Sharing	3
C. Guiding Principles for Project Selection	4
D. Project Evaluation Criteria	4
E. Project Application and Solicitation	5
F. Project Evaluation, Ranking and Award Process	5
G. All Public Activity (BOCC and Local Advisory Committee Meetings and Actions)	6
H. MYIP Availability for Public Review and Comment	7
IV. BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE	9
V. MEASURES OF MILESTONES AND SUCCESS	13
VI. OVERALL MYIP BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION	14
VII. APPENDICES	15
Appendix A-1: Project Information Sheet	16
Appendix A-2: Project Information Sheet	20
Appendix A-3: Project Information Sheet	25
Appendix B: Map of Location of All Projects	30
Appendix C: Documentation of Formal Adoption of MYIP	31
Appendix D: Noticing/Posting of MYIP for Public Review and Public Comments	32
Appendix E: General Press Coverage of Local RESTORE Act Activities and Letters to Editor	33
REFERENCES	34
ENDNOTES	35



I. GENERAL BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

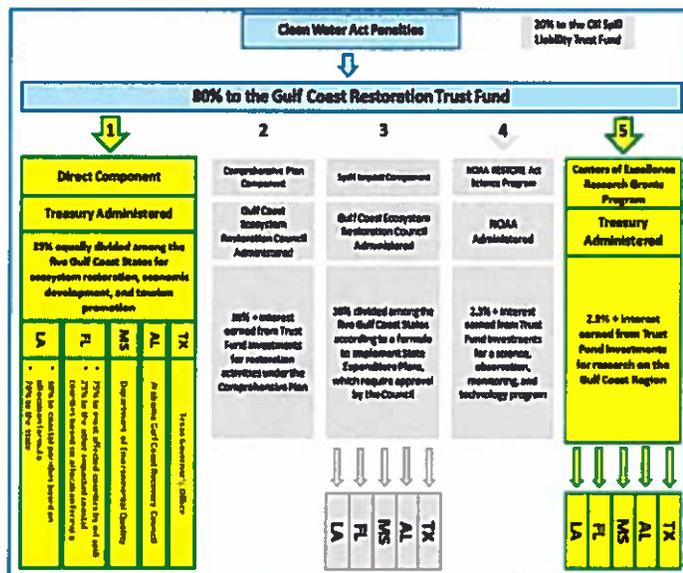
On April 20, 2010, the largest offshore oil spill in the United States (“U.S.”) occurred after the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon oil rig drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. Before the well was capped, millions of barrels of crude oil were released, closing tens of thousands of square miles of federal, state and protected waters to fishing, and causing extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats, and tourism across five (5) Gulf states, including Florida.

In July 2012, Congress passed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (“RESTORE Act” or “the Act”).¹ The Act established the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund (“Trust Fund”) within the U.S. Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”).

The Act also requires that 80% of the civil penalties paid after July 6, 2012, under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, in connection with the spill, must be deposited into the Trust Fund and invested. Amounts in the Trust Fund will be available for programs, projects, and activities to restore and protect the environment and economy of the Gulf Coast region.

Treasury is responsible for issuing compliance and auditing procedures for the entire Act and substantive procedures for two grant programs (Direct Component and Centers of Excellence Research Program) which it did on October 14, 2014² through its Interim Final Rule (“IFR”).

Treasury also published the RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance (“Guidance”)³ and a list of fund balances that provides further direction to recipients on the scope of their initial distributions.



The only funds obligated to the Trust Fund to date are from the Transocean civil settlement for \$1 billion, 80% (or \$800 million) of which will go toward RESTORE Act implementation. The Direct Component sets aside 35% of penalties paid into the Trust Fund for eligible activities proposed by the States of Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Louisiana and 20 Louisiana parishes, and 23 Florida counties.

Monroe County will receive 8.297% of those funds which is **\$1,167,643.80** as of March 2015. Final amounts are subject to new deposits into the Trust Fund, interest from investments being credited, and amounts withdrawn by grant recipients for eligible programs, projects, and activities under the Act. Funds for each component are available through grants and will be subject to all applicable Federal and State law.

A Multi-Year Implementation Plan (“MYIP”)⁴ is required *before* funds can be distributed to any eligible entity. The MYIP must:

- Describe each program, project and activity for which it seeks funding;
- Include a description of the project’s need, purpose, and objectives;
- Identify the eligible activities⁵ the project will undertake; and
- Include the project location, budget, milestones and projected completion dates, and criteria to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast region.

Prior to receiving Direct Component funds, Treasury requires submission of an Operational Self-Assessment (“OSA”) as part of its compliance process. The County submitted its OSA to Treasury in October 2014; and an updated OSA in July 2015.

This MYIP has been created pursuant to the Act and Treasury’s IFR. The scope of this MYIP tracks the funds available to Monroe County and consists of three (3) projects as ranked by Monroe County’s RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee (“Committee”) and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”). This MYIP also includes administrative and planning assistance costs to comply with the Act, Guidance and regulations.

Treasury will review Monroe County’s MYIP for completeness and conformity with the Act and Treasury regulations. Treasury may request additional information after its review and, pending approval, will notify the County (in writing) that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

II. THREE ACTIVITIES IN THE MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

After a thorough public review and selection process, the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners (“BOCC”) formally approved Direct Component funding for the three (3) projects included in this MYIP, as follows:

PROJECTS SELECTED FOR FUNDING

Project Name	BOCC Approved Funds
Coral Reef Restoration for Environmental and Economic Enhancement of the Florida Keys <i>Proposer: The Nature Conservancy</i>	\$550,000
Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration for Canals in Unincorporated Monroe County <i>Proposer: Monroe County</i>	\$450,000
Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration for Canals across “All Entities” in Monroe County (Funding Awarded Specifically for Islamorada) <i>Proposer: Monroe County</i>	\$100,000

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PROJECT PRIORITIZATION

Monroe County conducted a highly transparent and participatory process to determine the projects it ultimately selected for award from its Direct Component funding. Below are the various elements of the County’s process.

A. Local Committee

To ensure public participation, a local advisory committee, *The Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee*, was created by the Monroe County BOCC on February 20, 2013 with its adoption of Resolution 094-2013⁶ (and later Resolution 129-2013 for clarifications)⁷. The Committee was and remains tasked with making recommendations to the BOCC for projects that

are in the best interest of the County that will be funded through the Direct Component of the RESTORE Act.

The BOCC gave careful consideration to the Committee's membership to ensure broad stakeholder representation, requiring that the eleven (11) members represent each of the Monroe County Commission districts and each of the municipalities within Monroe County. The BOCC empowered the Committee to:

- Gain an understanding of the RESTORE project authorization and funds distribution process;
- Develop specific project evaluation criteria for the ranking of projects based on direction and Guiding Principles from the BOCC;
- Solicit projects for evaluation;
- Score and rank submitted projects; and
- Make recommendations to the BOCC for projects to be awarded with funding from the first distribution of RESTORE Act Direct Component funds.

To date, the Committee has held seven (7) meetings that were all publicly noticed: May 16, 2013; June 12, 2013; June 28, 2013; November 8, 2013; September 26, 2014; December 11, 2014; December 12, 2014.

Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee Members:

- ✓ *Patrick H. Rice, PhD. – Monroe County, District 1 Appointee, Marine Scientist*
- ✓ *Capt. Bill Kelly - Monroe County, District 2 Appointee, Executive Director of the Florida Keys Commercial Fishermen's Association*
- ✓ *Todd German - Monroe County, District 3 Appointee, Local businessperson*
- ✓ *David Makepeace - Monroe County, District 4 Appointee, Marine Biology Educator*
- ✓ *John Halas - Monroe County, District 5 Appointee, Marine Biologist*
- ✓ *Edwin Swift III – Monroe County Gulf Consortium Director Appointee, Local businessperson*
- ✓ *Sarah Spurlock – Representative for the City of Key West, Assistant City Manager*
- ✓ *Mayor Chris Bull –Elected official of the City of Marathon*
- ✓ *Councilman Mike Forster – Elected official of Islamorada, Village of Islands*
- ✓ *Councilman William Murchie – Elected official of the City of Layton*
- ✓ *Commissioner Ryan Schraffenberger – Elected official of the City of Key Colony Beach*

B. Public Notice and Information Sharing

To ensure broad public notice and information sharing, the County developed an informational webpage dedicated to the RESTORE Act, on its official website: www.monroecounty-fl.gov.

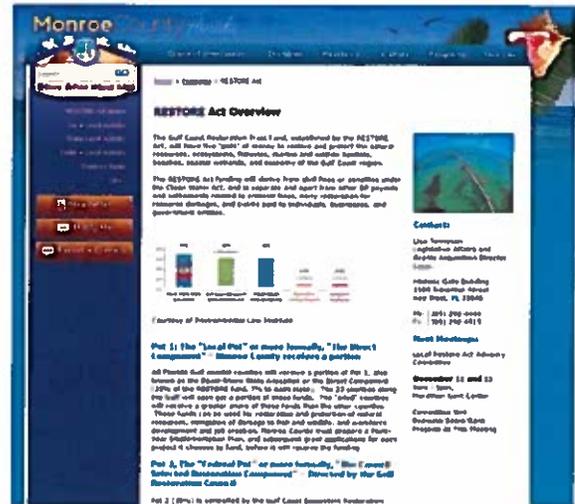
The RESTORE Act page on the County website was developed on February 5, 2013, and has been actively maintained and updated continually since.

From the start and throughout the entire process, the Committee's by-laws, membership, meeting dates, and meeting agendas and minutes were (and remain) posted on the County's website.⁸

The page contains information related to the various "pots" of funding, detailed information on the Direct Component funding pot, the Local Committee, Committee meeting information, video recordings of Committee meetings, project submission forms and deadlines, completed project

submissions, project scores and rankings, Treasury rules and information, BOCC actions, informational links, contact information, etc.

In addition to the County's RESTORE webpage, this information was regularly discussed at BOCC meetings, which are public and televised. Notifications of Committee meetings were advertised in local newspapers and announced on the County's website. Availability of Direct Component funding and deadlines were also advertised in local papers and announced on the County's website.



We also coordinated closely with the local media to keep the public informed. As a result, there was also a great deal of press and radio coverage related to the County's RESTORE Act activities, the Committee's activities, the availability of Direct Component funding, the various submissions for funding, scores and rankings, and the BOCC's project selection.

C. Guiding Principles for Project Selection

In May 2013, the BOCC developed Guiding Principles for Direct Component fund allocations to be used by the Committee in selecting projects to receive Direct Component funds. The BOCC intended that the Committee consider the Guiding Principles as threshold eligibility criteria for project proposals.

Guiding Principles:

- ✓ *Project must meet the eligible uses and funding conditions in the Act, and any Treasury requirements*
- ✓ *Projects provide positive direct environmental and/or economic benefit to Monroe County*
- ✓ *Projects are consistent with local government comprehensive plans and community priorities*
- ✓ *Projects incorporate other funding partners to fully leverage RESTORE funds*
- ✓ *No project can encumber all of the available funds in the local pot*

D. Project Evaluation Criteria

The Committee with guidance from the BOCC developed a set of Evaluation Criteria with a point system to be used for the project evaluation process. The Evaluation Criteria included:

1. Feasibility (Financial, technical, administrative)/Probability of Success (Are there obstacles? Can they be reasonably overcome? Does it require permits? Will it be able to qualify for necessary permits?)
2. Readiness to Implement/Timeframe for Completion (Is it designed/already permitted? How long before implementation? How long to complete?)
3. Benefits are Direct and Measurable (Are the benefits clear, measurable? Are they Economical? Environmental? Both?)

4. **Benefits are Keys-wide** (Do the benefits accrue Keys-wide or are they localized?)
5. **Cost-effective/Return on Investment** (Is it worth it? What is the funding/leverage ratio?)
6. **Public Support** (Can the project demonstrate support from the public? Is it part of an already approved Master plan, Comprehensive plan? State plan? Federal plan?)
7. **Demonstrated Ability/Experience/Expertise Related to Project: Ability to Manage Project Type/Size, Government Grant/Contracts, monitor and report on both results and expenditure of funds.**

Application Sections and Point Allocations:

- ✓ *Project Description (Need, Feasibility, Probability of Success): 20 points*
- ✓ *Project Budget (Match, Financial Feasibility, Cost-effectiveness): 15 points*
- ✓ *Technical Feasibility: 5 points*
- ✓ *Readiness for Implementation (Permitting, Obstacles): 10 points*
- ✓ *Completion Timetable: 10 points*
- ✓ *Environmental Benefits (Clear, measurable): 10 points*
- ✓ *Economic Benefits (Clear, measurable): 10 points*
- ✓ *Community Resilience: 5 points*
- ✓ *Complements Existing Effort and Plans/Public Support: 5 points*
- ✓ *Compliance with Federal, State and Local Regulations: No points (required for all projects)*
- ✓ *Project Management Capacity: 10 points*

E. Project Application and Solicitation

The Committee then established a Project Funding Submittal Form (application) and application procedure. The Project Funding Submittal Form was designed to reflect both the Guiding Principles and Evaluation Criteria. Once approved by the BOCC, the Committee solicited and accepted applications for projects in compliance with RESTORE Act eligibility criteria.

Monroe County’s Project Funding Submittal Form was released on July 19, 2013, with applications due by December 20, 2013 (after one deadline extension). Forty-six (46) applications were received in response.

All project submissions were posted, in their entirety, on the County’s website. The County also made numerous public announcements that project submissions were posted for public review.

F. Project Evaluation, Ranking and Award Process

The Committee evaluated, scored and ranked all project submissions during its December 11 and 12, 2014 meetings, over the course of one and a half days – one full day for presentations and another half day for Committee discussion, scoring, and compiling.

The Committee’s project evaluation meetings were publicly noticed with announcements on the County’s website, announcements at County Commission meetings, email blasts, and notices in local newspapers. The meeting materials-- agenda, presentation schedule, and Committee members’ scores and rankings, and video-recording of the meeting were (and remain) posted on the County’s

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE MONROE COUNTY LOCAL RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Monroe County will receive funding under the RESTORE Act program for eligible environmental and economic development uses. The Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee will meet on December 11, 2014 at 9AM and December 12, 2014 at 9AM at the Marathon Government Center in Marathon to review, rank, and make recommendations to the County Commission, for the use of these funds. One or more County Commissioners may be in attendance. For more information, please contact Lisa Tennyson, Legislative Affairs Director, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West, Room 2.210, Florida 33041; 305-292-4444; tennyson-lisa@monroecounty.fl.gov.

ADA ASSISTANCE: If you are a person with a disability who needs special accommodations in order to participate in this proceeding please contact the County Administrator's Office by phoning 1-850-292-4441, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., no later than five (5) calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting. If you are hearing or vision impaired, call 711.

Published Register 12-9-14

website.

The Committee heard thirty-seven (37) verbal presentations in total. (Not all applicants chose to make a presentation to the Committee.) The presentations enabled proposers to discuss projects with the Committee and provided an opportunity to Committee members to ask follow-up questions on the written submissions. After hearing all presentations, the Committee members independently finalized their individual scores.

The members' individual scores were then collected and tallied. Submissions with the highest total scores were ranked the highest. Individual committee member scores, total project scores, and project rankings were all presented at the meeting. Members of the public, officials from the various municipalities, and the proposers were all in attendance and given opportunity for input.

The final ranking was a Committee recommendation forwarded to the BOCC for final approval of the projects. The Committee's recommended project ranking was presented to the BOCC for discussion and formal selection at its regularly scheduled February 2015 monthly meeting.

Below is a snapshot of the Committee's scores and ranking for the top ranked projects:

		Committee Members													
		BOCC	BOCC	BOCC	BOCC	BOCC	BOCC	KW	Mar	Isl	KCB	Lay			
		Chair	Vice Chair	Absent	Absent										
Applicant	Project	Rice	Malpeace	Switt	Kelly	German	Holas	Sparlock	Bull	Forster	Schraffenberger	Nunzie	TOTAL	TOTAL AVG	RANK
The Nature Conservancy	Coral Reef Restoration for Environmental and Economic Enhancement of the Florida Keys	95	R	A	A	100	92	84	92	99	82	98	743	92.88	1*
County of Monroe	Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration - Just Usink Monroe	82	87	A	A	98	85	92	86	94	85	91	800	88.89	2*
County of Monroe	Canal Water Quality Improvements and Restoration - All Entities	81	88	A	A	95	82	91	86	92	80	93	789	87.67	3

After presentation and discussion, the BOCC approved the three (3) top-ranked projects (as listed in the chart on page 2 of this document) and decided upon funding amounts for each.⁹ Again, members of the public were in attendance and there were no objections or comments expressed regarding the BOCC's final awards.

The thoroughness and outcomes the County's evaluation and ranking process were commended in various Letters the Editor by environmental organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation and The Nature Conservancy. (Copies of these are included in Appendix E.)

G. Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) Posting for Public Review and Comment Process

Treasury requires the following: The County must develop an MYIP; the County's MYIP must include a Narrative and Matrix that reflect the three projects ranked and approved for Direct Component Funding; and the MYIP must be made available for public review and comment for a minimum of forty-five (45) days in a manner that will obtain broad, meaningful participation from individuals, businesses, non-profit organizations and others.¹⁰

Monroe County's MYIP Narrative and Matrix reflect the selected projects. This supplementary Plan Document is also included to provide more information on our local RESTORE Act program, project selection process, public input process, and detailed project information, maps, etc.

The County's MYIP was posted for public review and comment for a total of 53 days. Consistent with the broad public input process facilitated by the County to date on all things RESTORE Act, and to specifically satisfy the requirement to ensure meaningful public comment on the MYIP, the County conducted the following activities:

- *July 8, 2015:* Monroe County's *draft* MYIP was publicly noticed and posted on the County's website. The County maintains a dedicated web page for its RESTORE Act program and activities. The MYIP was posted in its entirety on the County's RESTORE Act page, along with a link to a dedicated email address to use for comments. Additionally, notification of the Plan's availability for public review and comment, including a direct link to the Plan, was placed prominently on the County's main homepage. The *draft* MYIP remained posted on the County's website through August 30th, for a total of 53 days. (Various screen shots of the County's website illustrating the MYIP posting are included in Appendix D).
- *July 8, 2015:* Broad notification of the MYIP's availability for review and comment was made to public via email blast, press release on to all media outlets in Monroe County, and public notices placed with each of the community's three local newspapers. (A copy of the press release and copies of the public notices are included in Appendix D).
- *July 10, 2015:* For additional public notice, the *draft* MYIP was placed on the published revised agenda for the July 2015 meeting of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.
- *July 15, 2015:* At the July 15 BOCC meeting, announcement and public notice was given that the Monroe County MYIP was available for public review and comment on the Monroe County website, and included the website address and an email address for comments.
- *August 30, 2015:* During the 53-day period, Monroe County received 26 public comments, all in support of projects in plan.
- *September 16, 2015:* After the required public review and comment period, the *final* MYIP was then again presented to the BOCC at its regularly scheduled, publicly noticed and televised monthly meeting in September; the BOCC approved a resolution formally adopting the *final* MYIP. (This resolution is included in Appendix C.)

H. All Public Activity (BOCC and Local Advisory Committee Meetings and Actions)

A complete list of RESTORE Act program-related activities, public meetings, discussions, Committee meetings, and formal BOCC actions is provided below. All activities were broadly noticed to the public via emails, meeting and funding availability notices in local print newspapers, postings on the County website, press release and ample media coverage (examples of these are included in Appendix E).

- *July 8-September 16, 2015:* After a 53-day public review and comment period for the Monroe County MYIP, the BOCC approved a resolution formally adopting it at the regularly scheduled September County Commission meeting.
- *February 18, 2015:* BOCC reviewed and approved three (3) projects (and funding amounts) for RESTORE Act Direct Component ("Local Pot") funding: Coral Reef Restoration Program (ranked #1) for \$550,000, Monroe County (*Unincorporated*) Canal Restoration Program (ranked #2) for \$450,000 and part of Monroe County (*All Entities*) Canal Restoration Program (ranked #3) - for Islamorada's Canal Restoration Projects for \$100,000.
- *December 11 & 12, 2014:* Committee meetings to hear final presentations, score and rank applications. (All meetings of the Committee were publicly noticed with date, time and place in the local paper and on the County's website. Agendas, meeting materials, minutes and video-recordings of each meeting are posted on the County's website.)
- *October 17, 2014:* BOCC presentation and discussion on RESTORE Act and Final Treasury Rule, including discussion of County's requirement to develop a MYIP, gravity of federal grant requirements and grant management costs and risks to County related to sub-awards; BOCC gave direction to staff to draft MYIP in-house with outside technical support.
- *September 26, 2014:* Committee Meeting with update on the Final Treasury Rule, federal grant requirements, importance of project management capacity.
- *February 2014:* BOCC ratified submission (in December 2013) of an additional County request to Local Pot application process for a multi-jurisdictional Canal project.
- *January 16, 2014:* BOCC approved Commissioner Neugent's nomination of appointment to Gulf Consortium Executive Committee.
- *December 27, 2013:* All new/additional project application submissions posted to County's website.

- *December 20, 2013:* Extended closing date for Local Pot application cycle (extension was publicly noticed in local papers, on County's website and via press release).
- *November 20, 2013:* BOCC approved recommendation of the Committee to extend the deadline for submitting project proposals for the RESTORE Act Local Pot funding until December 20, 2013.
- *November 20, 2013:* BOCC ratified County's comments on the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Department of Treasury, concerning the RESTORE Act program, which were submitted to U.S. Treasury on November 5, 2013.
- *November 8, 2013:* Committee Meeting included discussion and approval of re-opening cycle and extension through December 20, 2013. Also heard presentation on U.S. Treasury regulations regarding RESTORE Act funding.
- *September 6, 2013:* All project submittal applications posted on the County's website and public notified of the posting via email, announcements, and media.
- *August 30, 2013:* Original closing date for Local Pot funding application cycle.
- *July 18, 2013:* Opening date for Local Pot funding application cycle (opening was publicly noticed in local newspapers, on County's website, and via a press release; opening was also covered by media).
- *July 17, 2013:* BOCC approved Committee recommendations for the Local Pot funding application process including a Project Funding Submittal Form (project evaluation criteria and points), submission process, and application opening and closing dates for RESTORE Act Local Pot funding.
- *June 28, 2013:* Committee Meeting to discussed draft project submittal form, application of points to reflect Evaluation Criteria, ranking list of allowable uses, and development of application process timetable.
- *June 12, 2013:* Committee Meeting with update on RESTORE Act, initial discussion of project selection process, the BOCC's Guiding Principles and Evaluation Criteria, and direction to staff to develop draft application.
- *May 16, 2013:* First Committee Meeting with introductions, overview of RESTORE Act, overview of Local Pot and role of Committee in devising a process for selecting projects for award, and election of officers.
- *May 15, 2013:* BOCC discussed and determined Guiding Principles and Evaluation Criteria for project award process for Local Pot funding for the Committee. BOCC directed Committee to review/consider these criteria and bring back recommended Evaluation Criteria to Board. (Committee reflected this in project application questions/point system.)
- *April 17, 2013:* BOCC approved clarifications to voting requirements for Committee members, adopted Resolution 129-2013 amending Resolution 094-2013 to prohibit all Committee members, including government agency members, from voting on projects that benefit their agencies.
- *March 20, 2013:* BOCC approved its six (6) appointees to the Committee; the five (5) municipalities also appointed their representatives to the Committee. BOCC ratified two (2) project submissions for Federal Council funding.
- *February 20, 2013:* BOCC approved creation of the Committee, adopting Resolution 094-2013 creating the Committee and its purpose, membership, and responsibilities.
- *January 16, 2013:* BOCC approved Committee membership model consisting of appointments by each municipality and six (6) BOCC appointments (one (1) by each Commissioner and an additional appointment by Commissioner also serving as the Director to Gulf Consortium).
- *December 11, 2012:* BOCC held a Special Meeting to discuss RESTORE Act, creation and membership makeup of a local RESTORE Act committee and an application process. BOCC adopted Resolution 364-2012 supporting candidacy of Commissioner Neugent's nomination of appointment to the RESTORE Act Gulf Consortium Executive Committee.
- *September 21, 2012:* BOCC adopted Resolution 250A-2012 appointing Mayor Neugent to serve as representative, and Commissioner Rice as the alternate representative, to the RESTORE Act Gulf Consortium. BOCC approves Monroe County's joining of the Gulf Consortium, adopting Resolution 246-2012 approving an Inter-local agreement to join the RESTORE Act Gulf Consortium.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary:

- ✓ *Congressionally designated on Nov. 16, 1990 as a national marine sanctuary.*
- ✓ *2,896 square nautical miles (9,933 square kilometers).*
- ✓ *Shares boundaries with three national parks (Everglades, Biscayne, and Dry Tortugas).*
- ✓ *Overlaps four national wildlife refuges, six state parks and three state aquatic preserves.*
- ✓ *Includes mangrove, seagrass, hardbottom, and coral reef habitats in coastal and oceanic waters (largest living coral reef in the continental U.S. and largest seagrass bed in the hemisphere).*
- ✓ *Home to more than 6,000 species of marine life.*
- ✓ *Approximately 1,700 islands with a combined shoreline length of 1,815 miles (2,920 kilometers).*
- ✓ *Approximately 60% of the Sanctuary is State of Florida waters and 40% is Federal waters.*
- ✓ *Administered by NOAA, in partnership with FDEP and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.*
- ✓ *The Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program was created in 1994 by the US EPA to track the status of the natural resources in the Sanctuary and to provide recommendations for restoring and preserving water quality necessary for a thriving reef ecosystem.*
- ✓ *The focus of extensive scientific research; since 1995 the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program has included Water Quality and Coral Reef Monitoring Programs to track and analyze water quality and reef ecology and health.*

(<http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>)

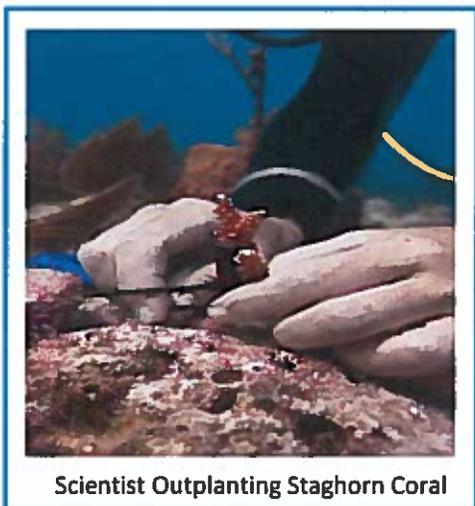
B. Coral Reef Restoration Project

A healthy, vibrant reef is critical to the continuation of the ecosystem. The MYIP's Coral Reef Restoration Project's goal is to help re-build a threatened, fragile reef.

Monitoring of the coral reef over the past twenty (20) years in the Sanctuary shows a documented and quantified decline of stony coral cover and species diversity within the Sanctuary. From 1996 to 2011, CREMP recorded a 47% decline in stony coral.²¹

Coral reef areas provide critical nursery and feeding habitat for an abundance of ecologically and economically valuable sea life.²² Coral reefs buffer adjacent shorelines from wave action and prevent erosion, property damage and loss of life. Reefs also protect the highly productive wetlands along the coast.

The Coral Reef Restoration project will grow staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) in undersea nurseries located throughout the Keys and star corals (a type of boulder coral) in land-based nurseries on Summerland Key. The coral will then be planted on reefs where they will kick start reproduction and reef recovery for the future.



Scientist Outplanting Staghorn Coral

The approach entails taking small fragments of live tissue from healthy coral colonies of known genetic stock, growing them out in nurseries over time to create multiple colonies of each genetic type, and then outplanting genetically distinct individuals in proximity to one another so they spawn and help reseed surrounding reefs.

Staghorn coral and boulder corals from the genus *Montastrea* (star corals) were chosen as they are very important to the reef system. Staghorn coral was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2006, and several species of boulder coral, including star coral, were added in 2014.

This project has been through an extensive “feasibility study” period beginning in 2004. NOAA funded scientists with The Nature Conservancy and partner organizations including Mote Marine Laboratory, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Coral Restoration Foundation to begin growing staghorn corals at eight (8) underwater nurseries located in the South Florida reef track through the Keys.

Over the past 6 years, scientists at Mote have been developing techniques for propagating and outplanting boulder corals. The most recent development is to create ‘microfragments’ to be used to reskin dead coral heads.

This proposed project has demonstrated success. Over the past ten (10) years, this program has scaled up from one (1) nursery with a few hundred corals to forty-six (46) individual restoration sites, with the nurseries housing over 30,000 corals, many of which are large enough to be split into multiple outplant-sized colonies. Mote is now able to create upwards of 10,000 microfragments each year.



Scientist Measuring Newly Outplanted Staghorn Coral



Year-Old Outplanting Restoration Site

Additionally, an over 70% survivorship rate has been achieved at all sites, with many sites showing much higher survival rates. The propagation of *Acropora cervicornis* via a coral gardening approach implemented within in-water nurseries using low-cost materials can provide an effective method to expand declining stocks of the threatened staghorn coral in Florida and elsewhere in the region, according to the University of Miami’s Rosentiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science.²³

The expertise and knowledge gained to date has been formalized into a “Practitioner’s Guide to Acropora Restoration” (Johnson et al., 2011) that provides science-based guidelines for the activities to be undertaken as part of this expansion project.

C. Canal Restoration Projects:

The coral reef is, in turn, directly linked to nearshore water quality. The goal of the two (2) MYIP Canal Water Restoration projects is to improve the poor quality of canal waters that are discharged into the nearshore waters of the Sanctuary and threaten the reef and ecosystem.

The County’s canal waters have been found to be high in nutrients and low in dissolved oxygen (“DO”). A healthy coral reef and marine ecosystem requires clear water that is low in nutrients and high in DO.²⁴

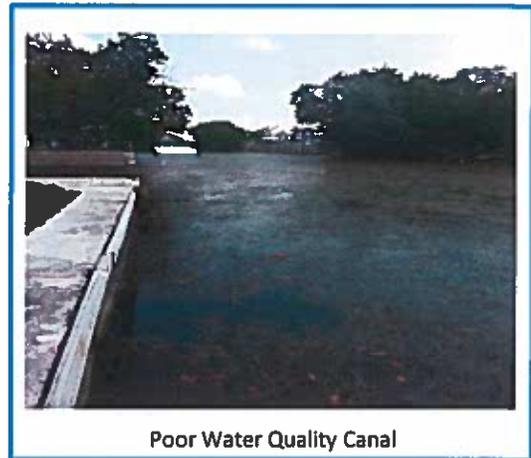
Since the canals discharge their poor quality waters directly into nearshore Federally-designated Sanctuary waters and State-designated Outstanding Florida Waters, addressing on-going canal water quality impairment is of utmost importance.

The Sanctuary’s WQPP’s Action Plan²⁵ which identifies priorities and corrective actions to restore healthy water quality in Sanctuary waters, specifically identifies the *need to implement technologies designed to improve canal water quality* (Strategy W.10, Activities 1-7), and states “the sources of the

loadings in canals and nearshore waters are known, and these problems should be addressed as soon as possible using best available technology.”

As part of the 2003 Monroe County Residential Canal Inventory and Assessment, water quality conditions in canals were evaluated and found to be significantly poorer than the baseline reference for total nitrogen and total phosphorus for all canal types.

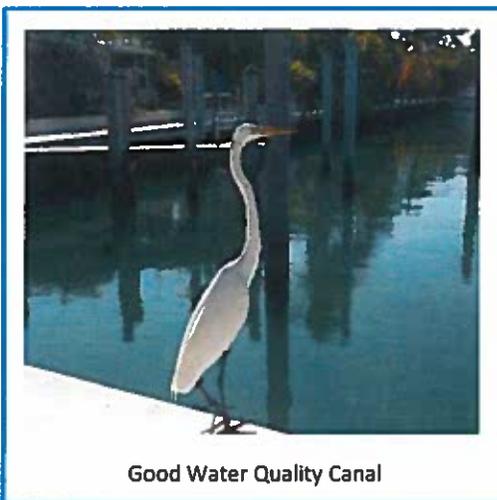
In 2008, in response to documented water quality issues in the Keys’ residential canals, the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) developed the Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Document (FKRAD) for the purpose of addressing the impaired waters in the canals.



Poor Water Quality Canal

In a 2011 FKRAD update, DEP stated that canals will likely not achieve the State’s Class III Marine Surface Water DO standards, required for waters that discharge into nearshore Outstanding Florida Waters and Sanctuary waters ***without addressing poor circulation, weed wrack, organic sediments, and DO concentrations.***

The Sanctuary’s Water Quality Protection Program’s most recent Biennial Report to Congress in 2013 states:



Good Water Quality Canal

“Addressing the complexities of canal restoration is a high priority future activity. Planning has been initiated to develop a Canal Management Master Plan (CMMP) that will provide an ecologically sound and economically feasible implementation strategy for improving and managing the environmental quality of canal systems in the Florida Keys.

Once completed, funding for a pilot canal restoration project will be sought to demonstrate methods to improve canal water quality by remedying canal depth, geometry, seagrass wrack, and flushing characteristics.”²⁶

The CMMP²⁷ was subsequently completed, prioritizing the need for water quality improvement, and identifying appropriate restoration options for each canal. A Phase I

CMMP completed in June 2012 initiated the canal restoration process. The final CMMP was finished in August 2013.

The CMMP’s development and on-going implementation is charged to members of the WQPP Steering Committee and its Canal Restoration Advisory Subcommittee, which include the following partners:

- US EPA
- US National Park Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- NOAA
- Florida Department of Environmental Protection
- South Florida Water Management District
- Monroe County
- Every municipality in Monroe County (Key West, Marathon, Key Colony Beach, Layton and Islamorada)

The CMMP identifies three (3) significant contributors of impaired canal water: accumulated organics, seaweed loading, and poor flushing and circulation. The canal restoration technologies to be implemented are those identified in the CMMP that address these specific causes of impaired waters.

Depending upon the specific canal(s) selected, one or a combination of these restoration technologies²⁸ will be applied:

1. Installation of weed barriers/air bubble curtains to minimize additional organic accumulation in the canals;
2. Removal of accumulated organics from canal bottoms;
3. Culvert installation to facilitate flushing and enhance natural tidal flow; and
4. Pumping systems to enhance circulation; and
5. Backfilling of too-deep canals to achieve a depth that enables natural tidal flow/flushing.

The technologies selected have been shown to be effective at other canal locations for improving these identified water quality issues. Some example restoration projects include organic removal at Lake Griffin, Florida²⁹ and the Eau Gallie River, Florida³⁰; flushing culverts at Jolly Rogers Estates, Little Torch, Florida Key; Gowanus New York canal flushing tunnel³¹ and South Bethany, Delaware tidal pumping.³² Air bubble curtains are commercially available and used for these types of projects quite commonly.

V. MEASURES OF MILESTONES AND SUCCESS

Each project will be carefully tracked so that project success can be gauged at select intervals during the course of project implementation. General measures of milestones and success include the following:

- ✓ Projects are completed within projected timeframes and within budgets.
- ✓ Projects further the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program and its federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.
- ✓ The Coral Restoration Project will result in additional coral plantings/nurseries, strengthening and restoring the fragile reef system; improving habitat for important reef fish species; and preserving a marine-based local economy.
- ✓ The Canal Water Quality Improvement Projects will result in reduced nutrient and pollutant loading to the nearshore waters, improving water quality in the Sanctuary; protecting the Sanctuary's fragile marine ecosystem; and preserving a marine-based local economy.
- ✓ Additional information regarding milestones is provided in the project information sheets included in Appendix A.

VI. OVERALL MYIP BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

The project budget includes the three (3) projects at the funding levels approved by the BOCC.

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>BOCC Approved Funds</i>	<i>Eligible Activity³³</i>
Coral Reef Restoration for Environmental and Economic Enhancement of the Florida Keys <i>Proposer: The Nature Conservancy</i>	\$550,000	(I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. (II) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources. (III) Implementation of a Federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring. (VII) Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure. (b)(II) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing.
Canal Water Quality Restoration In Monroe County for Canals in Unincorporated Areas) <i>Proposer: Monroe County</i>	\$450,000	(I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. (III) Implementation of a federally approved marine/coastal management plan, including fisheries monitoring. (IV) Workforce development and job creation. (VI) Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
Canal Water Quality Restoration In Monroe County for Canals Across All Entities in Monroe County. (Funding awarded to Islamorada's Canals.) <i>Proposer: Monroe County</i>	\$100,000	(i) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region. (III) Implementation of a federal approved marine/coast management plan, including fisheries monitoring. (IV) Workforce development and job creation.
Administrative Cost	\$35,029.31	(IX) Administrative costs of complying with this subsection.
Planning Assistance	\$32,614.49	(VIII) Planning assistance.
Total:	\$1,167,643.80	

The County is authorized to utilize up to 3% of the award amount for administrative costs. To date, the County has spent approximately \$100,000 for its RESTORE Act efforts but has chosen to not seek reimbursement for costs to date.

From this point forward, the County will utilize administrative and planning assistance funds in order to develop project grant applications and administer its RESTORE program.

VII. APPENDICES

- **Appendix A: Project Information Sheets for three (3) Activities**
 - **A-1: Coral Reef Restoration Project**
 - **A-2: Canal Water Quality Restoration in Unincorporated Monroe County**
 - **A-3: Canal Water Quality Restoration in All Entities in Monroe County (Islamorada)**
- **Appendix B: Map of Project Locations (where all work will be performed)**
- **Appendix C: Documentation of Formal Adoption of MYIP**
- **Appendix D: Demonstration of Noticing and Posting of MYIP for Public Review and Comment**
- **Appendix E: General Press Coverage of Local RESTORE Act Activities and Letters to Editor**

Appendix A-1: Project Information Sheet

1) PROJECT TITLE: CORAL REEF RESTORATION

SUMMARY

Coral reefs in the Keys have been in declining health since the 1970s due to coral bleaching, disease outbreaks, hurricanes, cold snaps, acute damage such as ship groundings, and nearshore water quality issues. Reefs are vital habitat for rare species as well as commercially and recreationally important fish and invertebrates. They buffer our islands from the impacts of storms and attract divers and snorkelers from around the world. Prior to coral reef decline, many reefs were dominated by two (2) types of hard corals: staghorn coral (*Acropora cervicornis*) and several massive boulder corals of the genus *Montastrea*.

This project focuses on ramping up restoration efforts for these important corals. Staghorn coral will be grown in undersea nurseries located throughout the Keys, while boulder star corals are produced in land-based facilities. These corals will then be planted on reefs where they will create habitat for marine life, improve the aesthetics of degraded reefs and most importantly, kick start coral reproduction and reef recovery for the future.

Approximately 20,000 staghorn corals of varying sizes will be planted on reefs between Key Largo and Key West. A subset of these will be part of value-added scientific research to help increase the pace and efficiency of future restoration activities. An additional 10,000 small boulder corals will repair 1,000 dead coral heads using an innovative 'reskinning' technology. Staghorn and star coral restoration efforts will be designed to encourage the restored corals to reproduce on their own and reseed both restored and adjacent reefs.

BACKGROUND

The Florida Keys Coral Reef Evaluation and Monitoring Project (CREMP), started in 1995, has recorded a decline in both species richness and coral cover, and no significant recruitment of juvenile corals since 1996 (Ruzicka et al., 2010). Populations of elkhorn and staghorn coral underwent a region-wide decline starting in the 1980s, with losses of up to 97% in some areas, due mainly to increased prevalence of bleaching and disease. These two (2) species were listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 2006. A more recent decline in the massive star corals has also led to a decline in live coral cover in the Florida Keys (Ruzicka, 2010). As a result, the boulder star coral (*Montastrea annularis*), mountainous star coral (*Montastrea faveolata*), and star coral (*Montastrea franksi*) were added to the ESA threatened species list in 2014.

The loss of reproductively active coral colonies, increased distance between these colonies and low rates of juvenile coral colonies surviving to sexual maturity have combined to create a situation in which it is unlikely that corals in the Florida Keys will repopulate the reefs naturally. This contributes to decreased resilience of our reef system and depresses natural restorative processes. Habitat protection and threat abatement may not be enough to stop the decline of reefs and active restoration of coral populations is a proven and cost-effective way to reestablish live corals to reefs.

The first staghorn nursery was established in 2004 as part of a partnership between The Nature Conservancy and Coral Restoration Foundation (CRF) and funded by the TNC-NOAA Community-Based Restoration Program (CRP). In 2006, under the same funding source, the concept was replicated in Broward County, Biscayne National Park, and the Lower Keys. Each nursery and outplanting operation

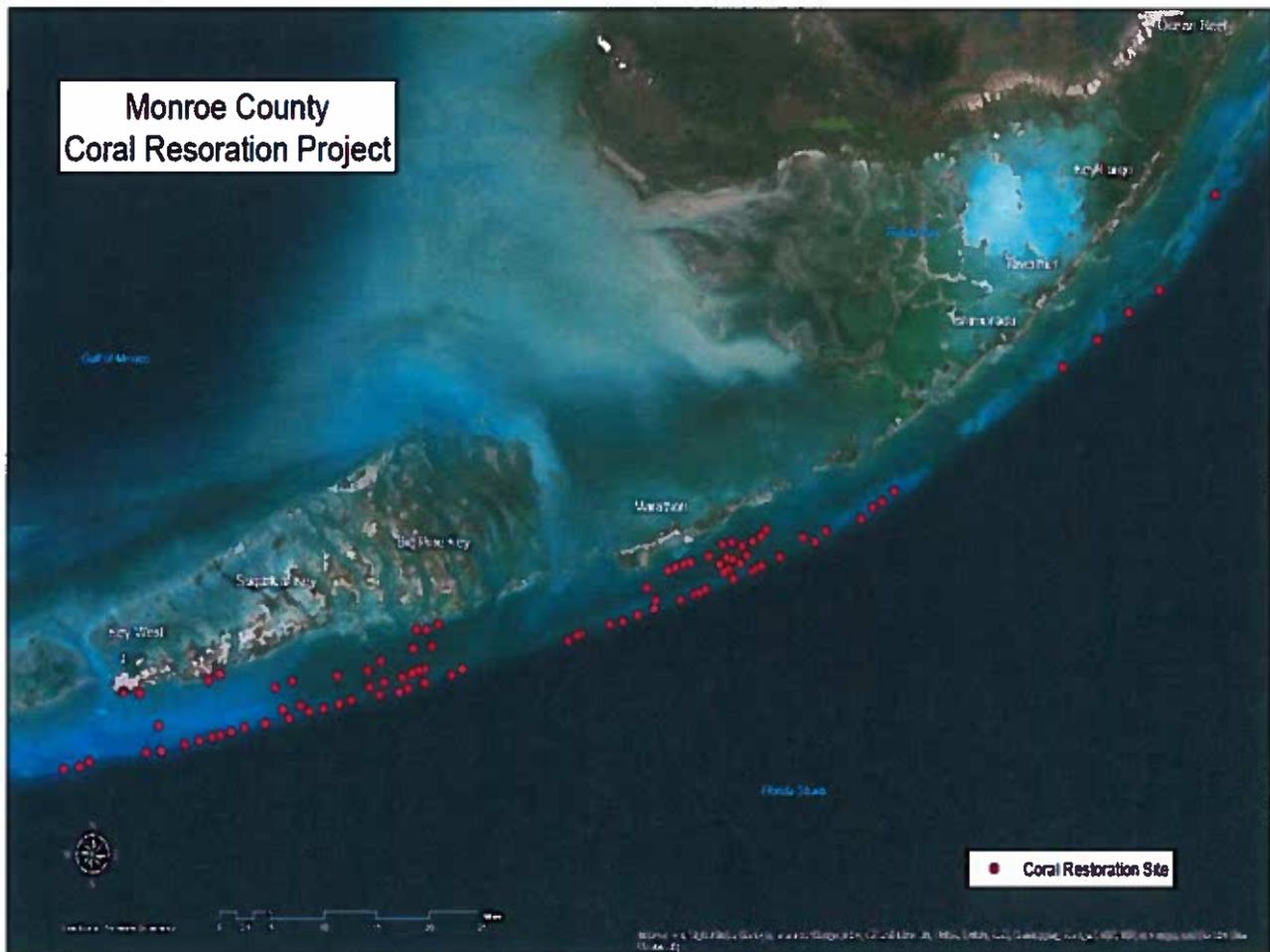
was managed by a new partner; Nova Southeastern University, University of Miami, and Mote Marine Laboratory.

In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act scaled the project up from proof-of-concept to production level. New nurseries were established in the Middle Keys (managed by Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute's Florida Keys Lab), Dry Tortugas National Park (managed by The Nature Conservancy's Florida Keys office) and St. Thomas and St. Croix in the U.S. Virgin Islands (managed by The Nature Conservancy's U.S. Virgin Island's office). The project is currently being supported by another TNC-NOAA CRP grant. Over 15,000 corals have been outplanted to reefs throughout Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands, with average survival rates within the first six (6) months after outplanting of over 75%.

Over the past six (6) years, Mote Marine Lab scientists have been developing techniques for propagating and outplanting boulder corals. Outplanting in 2010 and 2011 of large boulder coral fragments showed close to 90% survivorship after three (3) years. The most recent development, which has been honed over the past four (4) years, is to create 'microfragments' to be used to reskin dead coral heads. A proof of concept outplanting was performed in May 2013. A total of 192 microfragments were outplanted at two reefs. Within one (1) month, many of the corals had already begun sheeting over the nearby available substrate. After eight (8) months, survivorship remained above 75%.

LOCATION

The project, coral restoration outplantings, will occur in various locations on the reef track along the Florida Keys. The map below indicates sites for restoration outplantings.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Increase live coral cover at outplanting sites
- Increase the chances of successful sexual reproduction, thereby helping to reseed Keys reefs
- Improve habitat for important reef fish species
- Provide important tourism benefits by helping to combat the decline of Monroe County reefs

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

Reefs in the Keys have been in decline for decades. Despite efforts to protect the reefs and decrease existing threats, no significant improvements in live coral cover or health have been observed. Active restoration is a proven technique to help jump-start recovery of the reefs.

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this project is to restore degraded reefs in Monroe County through the outplanting of nursery-reared corals. Within a few years, the outplanted corals will begin to spawn and contribute to the reseeded of surrounding reefs.

BENEFITS

Reefs provide essential habitat to commercially and recreationally important fish and invertebrate species as well as thousands of other species. They also are frequented by larger marine predators such as sharks, sea turtles and dolphins. Because of their high diversity and abundance of marine life, as well as their beauty, reefs attract people for fishing, snorkeling and diving. More than 33,000 jobs in the Keys are supported by ocean recreation and tourism, accounting for more than half of the local economy. Intact reefs also provide a barrier against ocean waves, causing them to break offshore rather than on our shoreline. Without active restoration efforts Florida Keys reefs are likely to continue to lose live coral cover, and reefs without live coral eventually erode away. The benefits that our reefs are currently providing will be degraded if actions are not taken now to reverse this downward trend.

RESTORE OBJECTIVES

RESTORE objectives to be addressed by this project include environmental improvements and tourism promotion.

Environmental: Increased live coral cover; restoration of important habitat for fish, invertebrates, sea turtles; long-term impacts as outplanted corals contribute to reproductive potential of the species

Economic Development: Improved recreational and tourism value of Monroe County's reefs

Community Resilience : Healthy reefs serve as a natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms

Education: The Nature Conservancy and our partners on this project do a significant amount of outreach within the community to help educate the public about the importance of this work.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

Staghorn Coral Restoration	
Proposed Action	Proposed Timeline
Updating and renewing existing permits	7/1/15, annually
Nursery Maintenance	1/1/16-12/31/17
Site Selection (from large list of permitted sites)	11/1/15
Outplanting	Annually, excluding summer months
Monitoring	4/1/16-12/31/17
Grant Reporting	1/1/16-12/31/17
Permit Reporting	Annually, based on permit issue date
Star Coral Restoration	
Proposed Action	Proposed Timeline
Updating and renewing existing permits	7/1/15, annually
Raceway and Nursery Maintenance	1/1/16-12/31/17
Site Selection	11/1/15
Outplanting	Annually, excluding summer months
Monitoring	4/1/16-12/31/17
Grant Reporting	1/1/16-12/31/17
Permit Reporting	Annually, based on permit issue date

PROJECT SUCCESS CRITERIA

Outplanted corals will be assessed within six (6) months of outplanting for survivorship. Some minor maintenance may be performed after outplanting to ensure success of the corals. This may include removal of predatory snails and worms, reattachment of corals or broken fragments, and/or cleaning of the surrounding substrate to prevent algal overgrowth.

FUNDING

Funding for this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Funding:	\$550,000
The Nature Conservancy and Partners:	<u>\$200,000</u>
Total:	\$750,000

The Nature Conservancy and partners anticipate contributing up to \$200,000 in project costs.

Appendix A-2: PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

2) PROJECT TITLE: CANAL WATER RESTORATION (UNINCORPORATED MONROE COUNTY)

SUMMARY

Unincorporated Monroe County is comprised of a 100 mile string of islands, from the northernmost Key Largo to the southernmost island of Key West. As an integral part of the island chain, the County, along with the other governmental agencies in the region, recognizes the necessity (and the requirements) for water quality improvements. It has long been recognized that water quality in the Florida Keys has been deteriorating, particularly as it relates to our canal systems.

Today most of our canals are listed as "impaired water bodies" by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and are in need of restoration. In 1999 the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067 F.S.) was established to implement Florida's water body restoration program and thereby set forth a requirement for a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TDML's) to be established for all impaired water bodies.

To comply with these federal and state mandates to improve our water quality, the County, in cooperation with local governments, state agencies, and federal agencies within the Florida Keys, pursuant to the DEP Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Plan (FKRAD), agreed to accelerate and implement projects that were already planned in order to work towards a water quality standard that will help restore water quality.

Specifically, the FKRAD addresses the need to return our nearshore water quality to "targets" set for total nitrogen, total phosphorous, and in some impaired systems, dissolved oxygen. Dissolved oxygen is one of the primary concerns within our impaired canal systems and is of utmost importance to water quality restoration since canals discharge directly into our near shore waters.

Monroe County has begun canal restoration efforts and continues to be an active member of the Canal Restoration Advisory Subcommittee, which is under the Water Quality Protection Program of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. As a member of and in cooperation with that Subcommittee, the County developed the Canal Management Master Plan (CMMP)³⁴, which is a comprehensive County-wide assessment of our residential canal systems.

The CMMP has identified 333 residential canals within unincorporated Monroe County, 107 of which are considered "Poor Water Quality" and are the highest priority for implementing water quality improvements. Based on this assessment, the County has begun preliminary work on restoring the canals with the poorest water quality first.

The CMMP identifies three (3) significant contributors of impaired canal water: accumulated organics, seaweed loading, and poor flushing and circulation. The canal restoration technologies to be implemented are those identified in the CMMP that address these specific causes of impaired waters.

Depending upon the specific canal(s) selected, one or a combination of these restoration techniques will be applied in this project:

1. Installation of weed barriers/air bubble curtains to minimize additional organic accumulation in the canals;
2. Removal of accumulated organics from canal bottoms;
3. Culvert installation to facilitate flushing and enhance tidal flow; and
4. Pumping systems to enhance circulation.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project include:

- Improve the overall canal water quality conditions in the canals and thereby reduce the nutrient and pollutant loading to nearshore waters caused by excessive amounts of weed wrack (floating seaweed) that enter canals, stagnant water caused by non-circulating water, and decay of nutrient rich sediments.
- Eliminate the DEP-identified impairments for dissolved oxygen in the selected canals.
- Improve the benthic habitat and native flora and fauna in the canals.
- Protect the habitat and marine environment of our near shore waters and National Marine Sanctuary.
- Protect the local economy that is dependent on a healthy and robust marine environment.
- Support of the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program and comply with relevant federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

Many of the canals throughout Monroe County are listed as having impaired waters by the US EPA and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection because they exhibit high levels of nutrients and low levels of dissolved oxygen – conditions that have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters. These impaired canal waters discharge directly into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world’s most unique marine ecosystems and home to the largest living coral reef in the continental United States, the largest sea grass bed in the western hemisphere and over 6,000 species-- all of which only thrive in clean, clear waters that are low in nutrients and high in dissolved oxygen levels.

Monroe County has identified 107 canals in unincorporated Monroe County with “*Poor Water Quality.*” The 107 canals considered “*Poor Water Quality*” were ranked based on criteria outlined in the CMMP. Monroe County will construct and implement restoration projects that will improve the environmental quality of the waters in its canal system pursuant to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan and the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary’s Water Quality Protection Program.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the canal water restoration projects is to remedy the high nutrient loading and low dissolved oxygen impairing the water by addressing the most significant causes of those conditions: accumulated organics, seaweed loading (“weed wrack”), and poor flushing and tidal flow. The Monroe County County-wide Canal Management Master Plan (a plan developed in partnership with EPA, NPS, FWS, NOAA, DEP and the local governments) has identified 107 canals in unincorporated Monroe as having poor water quality and determined that each canal exhibits one or more of these contributing factors, and will require the implementation of one or a combination of restoration technologies.

BENEFITS

Canal restoration projects will improve water quality, aquatic and benthic habits within the canals and also improve water quality in the surrounding nearshore Sanctuary waters, benefitting the fragile and unique marine ecosystem of the Sanctuary. Water quality is also directly related to all aspects of our local economy. Monroe County supports a large tourism and fishing industry, which are both dependent

on the Sanctuary and good water quality. The restoration of our canal systems is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of both our environmental and economic resources. Improvements in our water quality also mitigate negative impacts from storm events as storm events can “remove” the water from within a canal system and directly deposit it into our near shore waters.

RESTORE OBJECTIVES

RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include environmental improvements, economic development, and community resilience.

Environmental: The project area --Monroe County (“The Florida Keys”)—is surrounded by the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The coral reef tract in the Florida Keys is the third largest barrier reef in the world, and the only living barrier reef in the continental US.

Water quality is of utmost importance to the Florida Keys’ ecosystem. Its protection and restoration is set in both federal and state law.

The coral reef, as well as seagrass bed health, is directly linked to near shore marine water quality. Corals and seagrasses thrive in areas where water is clear (low turbidity), low in nutrients, and high in dissolved oxygen. High levels of nutrients and low DO have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters.

Canal water restoration will improve water quality in the National Marine Sanctuary, in support of the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary’s Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP), Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Act and the Florida Keys Water Quality Improvements Program, and in compliance with relevant federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.

Improved water quality will also benefit seagrass beds and hardbottom communities in our near shore waters which provide critical nursery habitat for finfish and shellfish stocks including snapper, grouper, pink shrimp, and spiny lobster. Recreationally targeted species such as bonefish, permit, and tarpon will also benefit. The project will help federally listed species including sea turtles, smalltooth sawfish, staghorn coral, and other protected species including manatee, brown pelican and many other bird species.

Economic Development: The economic value of the coral reef to Monroe County was documented in a 2007-2008 socioeconomic study performed by the FKNMS which concluded that more than 33,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion dollars in revenue are directly attributed to Florida Reef Tract (*Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries, 2013*). In another study, published in 2005 by the University of Miami, the reef environment generates more than 70,000 jobs and \$6 billion dollars in economic activity annually.³⁵

Community Resilience: Restoration of canal water will lead to a healthier reef system, greater protection of natural resources, and a stronger economy all of which contribute to the community resilience of the Florida Keys. The reef contributes to resilience by serving as natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms. Improved water quality also ensures a healthy natural environment, which in turn, ensures a healthy economy. Economic vibrancy is integral to community resilience.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

Task	Proposed Date
Consultant Notice to Proceed	1/25/16
Final Design	4/25/16
Permitting	7/25/16
Proposal Advertisement and Award	9/26/16
Contractor Notice to Proceed	10/28/16
Start Construction	11/14/16
Complete Construction	2/14/17
As-Built Survey	2/17/17
Final Report	3/17/17
Project Close Out and Contract Termination	4/3/17

PROJECT SUCCESS CRITERIA

The primary goal of this restoration project is water quality improvement of the selected canals and the adjacent near shore waters. Project success will be measured over time by scientific analysis of water quality samples primarily of dissolved oxygen and turbidity, but may also include salinity, pH, nutrients and other factors.

FUNDING

Funding for this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Funding \$450,000

To date the County has matched/expended approximately \$4 million for canal restoration projects and is anticipated to expend an additional \$1 million by December 31, 2015.

Appendix A-3: PROJECT INFORMATION SHEET

PROJECT TITLE: CANAL WATER RESTORATION (ISLAMORADA)

SUMMARY

Islamorada, Village of Islands (the "Village") is a small municipality that comprises four islands in the Upper Keys: Plantation Key, Windley Key, Upper Matecumbe Key & Lower Matecumbe Key. As an integral part of the island chain, the Village, along with the other governmental agencies in the region, recognizes the necessity (and the requirements) for water quality improvements. It has long been recognized that water quality in the Florida Keys has been deteriorating, particularly as it relates to our canal systems.

Today most of our canals are listed as "impaired water bodies" by the EPA and are in need of restoration. In 1999 the Florida Watershed Restoration Act (Section 403.067 F.S.) was established to implement Florida's water body restoration program and thereby set forth a requirement for a Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's) to be established for all impaired water bodies.

The Village, in cooperation with local governments, state agencies, and federal agencies within the Florida Keys, pursuant to the DEP Florida Keys Reasonable Assurance Plan (FKRAD), agreed to accelerate and implement projects that were already planned in order to work towards a water quality standard that will help restore water quality.

Specifically, the FKRAD addresses the need to return our near shore water quality to "targets" set for total nitrogen, total phosphorous, and in some impaired systems, dissolved oxygen. Dissolved oxygen is one of the primary concerns within our impaired canal systems and is of utmost importance to water quality restoration since canals discharge directly into our near shore waters.

Along with other local entities, Islamorada, Village of Islands has begun canal restoration efforts and continues to be an active member of the Canal Restoration Subcommittee, which is under the Water Quality Protection Program of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. As a member of that Subcommittee, the Village has been involved with the development of the **Canal Management Master Plan (CMMP)**, which is a County-wide assessment of our residential canal systems.

The CMMP has identified sixty-two (62) residential canals with the Village of Islamorada, ten (10) of which are considered "Poor Water Quality" and are the highest priority for implementing water quality improvements. Based on this assessment, the Village has begun preliminary work on restoring the canals with the poorest water quality first. A more detailed description of the restoration techniques can be found in the CMMP and the Village of Islamorada Selection of Demonstration Canals for Water Quality Improvements (SDC) document (Village Resolution 13-11-85).

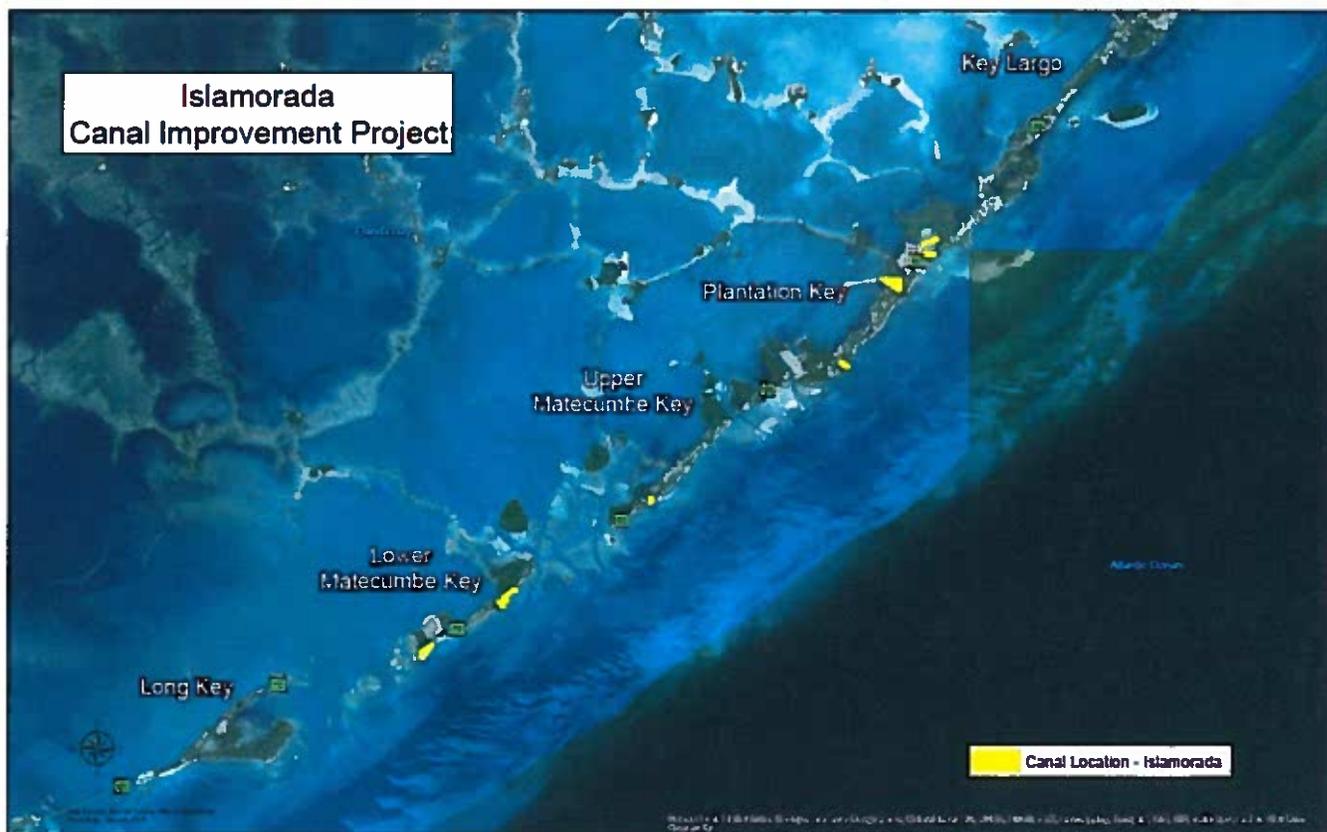
The restoration technologies presently under consideration as identified in the CMMP focus on improving the canal water quality. They include:

- Removal of accumulated organics from within canals;
- Weed gates, air curtains or other physical barriers to minimize additional organic accumulation in the canals;
- Culvert connections to facilitate flushing;
- Pumping systems to facilitate flushing; and
- Backfilling to prevent occurrence of deep stagnant zones.

Canal water restoration projects will be constructed and implemented in canals within the municipality of Islamorada, Village of Islands, (centrally located in the Florida Keys) as specified in the Monroe County CMMP. The Village has already initiated a \$100,000 demonstration program that has evaluated the permitting issues, costs and water quality effectiveness to assist in future restorations of the top 10 "Poor Water Quality" residential canals. In addition, in 2014 the Village completed installation of the first canal restoration project within its boundaries by installing a weed barrier system, leaving nine (9) canals on the top priority list for restoration.

LOCATION

The location of the remaining 9 canals considered "Poor Water Quality" and ready for remediation are outlined in the Village of Islamorada Selection of Demonstration Canals for Water Quality Improvements (SDC) document. The canals are found within four islands of the Upper Keys: Plantation Key, Windley Key, Upper Matecumbe Key & Lower Matecumbe Key.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Improve the overall canal water quality conditions in the canals.
- Eliminate the DEP-identified impairments for dissolved oxygen in the selected canals.
- Improve the benthic habitat and native flora and fauna in the canals.
- Reduce nutrient and pollutant loading to nearshore waters caused by excessive amounts of weed wrack (floating seaweed) that enter canals, stagnant water caused by non-circulating water, and decay of nutrient rich sediments.
- Improve nearshore water quality to protect the habitat and marine environment of our near shore waters.

- Improve nearshore water quality to reduce threats to the quality of the waters and habitat and marine environment of the National Marine Sanctuary.
- Restore water quality and improve near shore water quality to protect our local tourism economy that is dependent on a healthy and robust marine environment.
- Support of the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program and comply with relevant federal and state regulatory requirements and mandates.

PROJECT NEED, PURPOSE, BENEFITS, AND RESTORE APPLICABILITY

NEED

Many canals in Islamorada are listed as having impaired waters by the US EPA and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection because they exhibit high levels of nutrients and low levels of dissolved oxygen – conditions that have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters. These impaired canal waters discharge directly into the nearshore waters of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, one of the world’s most unique marine ecosystems and home to the largest living coral reef in the continental United States, the largest sea grass bed in the western hemisphere and over 6,000 species-- all of which only thrive in clean, clear waters that are low in nutrients and high in dissolved oxygen levels. Islamorada will construct and implement restoration projects that will improve the environmental quality of the waters in its canal system pursuant to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan and the goals and objectives of the Sanctuary’s Water Quality Protection Program.

Islamorada, Village of Islands, has identified the ten worst water quality residential canals within the municipality’s boundary. The 10 canals considered “Poor Water Quality” were ranked based on criteria outlined in the CMMP and The Village of Islamorada Selection of Demonstration Canals for Water Quality Improvements (SDC) document. Restoring water quality is necessary to ensure the health and welfare of our natural resources, our economy and our quality of life. Canal restoration is an important “piece of the puzzle” that will require a long-term effort and commitment from many sources, not just the Village.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the canal water restoration projects is to remedy the high nutrient loading and low dissolved oxygen impairing the water by addressing the most significant causes of those conditions: accumulated organics, seaweed loading (“weed wrack”), and poor flushing and tidal flow. The Monroe County County-wide Canal Management Master Plan (a plan developed in partnership with EPA, NPS, FWS, NOAA, DEP and each of the local governments) has identified 10 canals in Islamorada as having poor water quality and determined that each canal exhibits one or more of these contributing factors, and will require the implementation of one or a combination of restoration technologies. The 10 canals considered “Poor Water Quality” were ranked based on criteria outlined in the Plan and The Village of Islamorada Selection of Demonstration Canals for Water Quality Improvements (SDC) document. The Village will construct a weed barrier(s) (weed wrack gate) to stop excessive amounts of weed wrack (floating seaweed) entering the canals.

BENEFITS

Canal restoration projects will improve water quality, aquatic and benthic habits within the canals and also improve water quality in the surrounding nearshore Sanctuary waters, benefitting the fragile and unique marine ecosystem of the Sanctuary. Water quality is also directly related to all aspects of our

local economy. Islamorada, Village of Islands is in the center of Monroe County and supports a large tourism and charter boat fishing industry which are both dependent on the FKNMS and good water quality. Improvements in the canal water quality will ensure continued dollars from these industries. The restoration of our canal systems is crucial to ensuring the sustainability of both our environmental and economic resources. Improvements in our water quality also mitigate negative impacts from storm events as storm events can “remove” the water from within a canal system and directly deposit it into our near shore waters.

RESTORE OBJECTIVES

RESTORE objectives addressed by this project include environmental improvements, economic development, and community resilience.

Environmental: The project area is located in the only state in the continental United States to have extensive shallow coral reef formations near its coasts. Coral reef, as well as seagrass bed health, is directly linked to near shore marine water quality. Both corals and seagrasses thrive in areas where water is clear (low turbidity), low in nutrients, and high in dissolved oxygen (DO). High levels of nutrients and low DO have been directly linked to extensive die-off in coral reefs in the coastal waters.

Economic Development: The socioeconomic importance of the reef to Monroe County was documented in a 2007-2008 socioeconomic study performed by the FKNMS which concluded that more than 33,000 jobs and \$2.3 billion dollars in annual added revenue are directly attributed to Florida Reef Tract (Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries, 2013). Islamorada is geographically centered in Monroe County and supports a large tourism and charter boat fishing industry which are dependent on the FKNMS and good water quality. Tourism relies on clean beaches, thriving fisheries and healthy natural resources. The need to restore and sustain our marine environment is critical in maintaining our livelihood.

Community Resilience: Restoration of canal water will lead to a healthier reef system, greater protection of natural resources, and a stronger economy all of which contribute to the community resilience of the all of the communities of the Florida Keys. The reef contributes to resilience by serving as natural first line of defense for the shoreline by breaking waves offshore, which is particularly important during storms. Improved water quality also ensures a healthy natural environment, which in turn, ensures a healthy economy. Economic vibrancy is integral to community resilience. Water quality is directly related to all aspects of our local economy.

PLAN OF ACTION AND MILESTONES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT

Task	Proposed Date
Consultant Notice to Proceed	1/11/16
Final Design	3/11/16
Permitting	6/10/16
Proposal Advertisement and Award	10/10/16
Contractor Notice to Proceed	10/17/16
Start Construction	11/7/16
Complete Construction	12/16/16
As-Built Survey	12/20/16
Final Report	1/20/17
Project Close Out and Contract Termination	2/17/17

PROJECT SUCCESS CRITERIA

The primary goal of this restoration project is water quality improvement of the selected canals and the adjacent near shore waters. Project success will be measured over time by scientific analysis of water quality samples primarily of dissolved oxygen and turbidity, but may also include salinity, pH, nutrients and other factors.

FUNDING

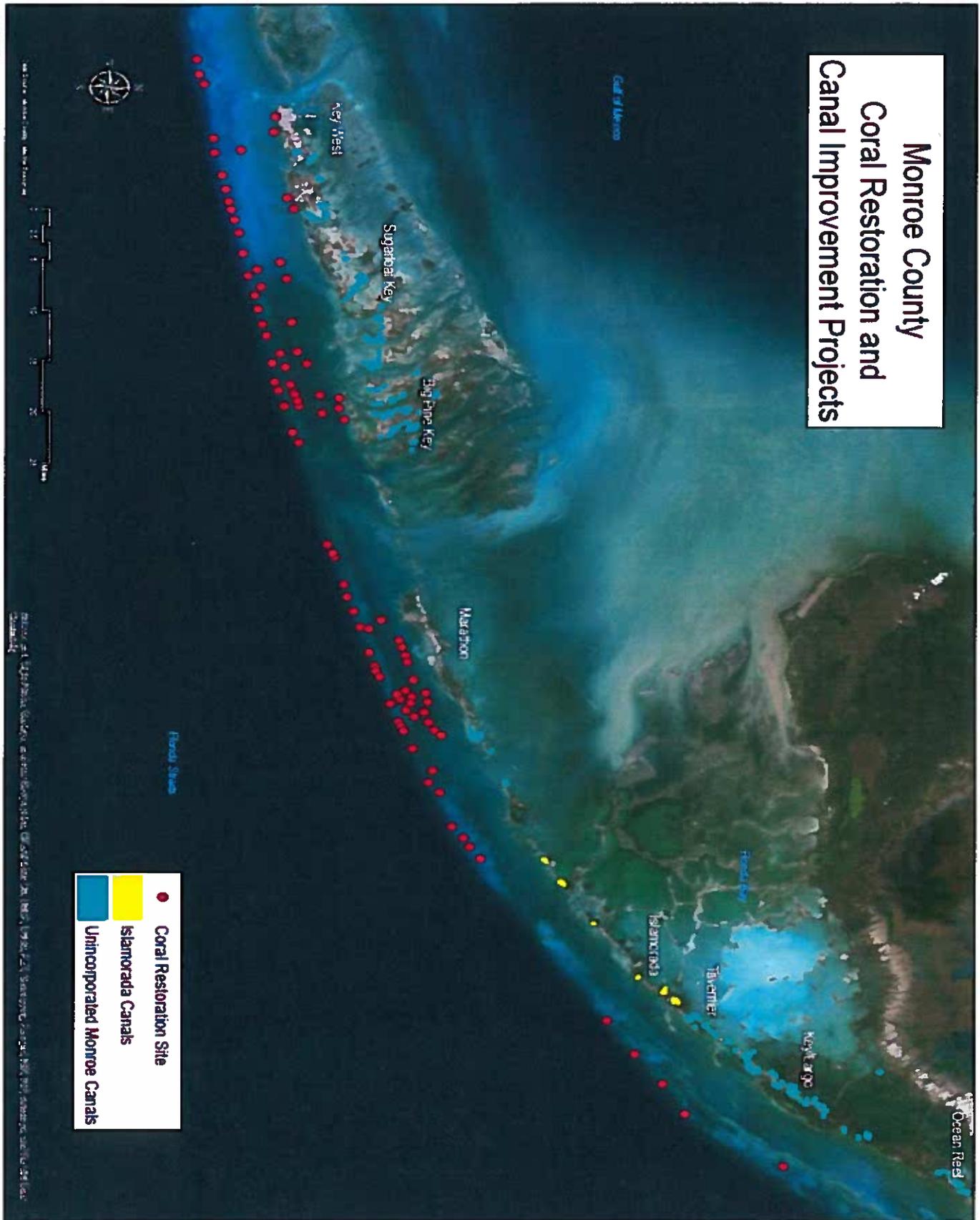
Funding from this project will be provided as follows:

RESTORE Funding	\$ 100,000
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Islamorada, Village of Islands has committed \$100,000 in its FY 2013-2014 General Fund Budget for a canal restoration project located within the boundaries of the Village.

Appendix B: MAP OF PROJECT LOCATIONS (Where All Work Will Be Performed)

**Monroe County
Coral Restoration and
Canal Improvement Projects**



Appendix C: Documentation of Formal Adoption of MYIP

Attached:

- **Resolution of the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners approving/adopting the Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA ADOPTING THE MONROE COUNTY
RESTORE ACT MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN; AND
PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the United States Congress passed the "Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012," known as the RESTORE Act, to establish a trust fund for deposits of 80% of administrative and civil penalties exacted from parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill for distribution of the funds among the affected states, and

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act requires the U.S. Treasury, in consultation with other federal agencies, establish procedures for passing the fines levied (or the "funds") to the recipients as so designated by the RESTORE Act;

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act specifically allocated 35% of the 80% of the fines collected to be made exclusively to the five Gulf Coast states of Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida, in equal shares; and

WHEREAS, Florida's share of the 35% allocation is to be split between the Gulf Coast counties with 75% going to those 8 counties identified as being disproportionately impacted (*i.e.*, Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Bay, Gulf, Franklin, and Wakulla) divided based upon an agreed formula, and 25% of the fines to be allocated to those 15 counties that front on the Gulf Coast, but were non-disproportionately impacted) by the Deepwater Horizon event divided by an established formula; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County is identified as one of the 15 non-disproportionately impacted counties and is therefore a recipient of RESTORE Act Direct Component (or "Local Pot") funds; and

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act, section 1603 (3) further defines the use and eligible activities for which these funds may be used by the Gulf Coast states for ecological and economic restoration within the Gulf Coast regions, as follows:

- 1) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- 2) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
- 3) Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- 4) Workforce development and job creation.
- 5) Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- 6) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy of ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- 7) Coastal flood protections and related infrastructure.
- 8) Planning assistance.
- 9) Administrative costs of complying with this section, which cannot exceed 3%.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act, section 1603 (3) additionally defines the use and eligible activities for which these funds may be used by the Gulf Coast states for promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region, as follows:

- 1) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.
- 2) Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region.

WHEREAS, the RESTORE Act empowers the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners with the authority to distribute its Direct Component funds for various purposes and projects as designated by and consistent with the Act; and

WHEREAS, Monroe County will receive \$1,167,643.80 in Direct Component as of March 2015, with final amounts subject to new deposits into the Trust Fund, interest from investments being credited; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of receiving amounts from the Trust Fund, the County must develop and submit a Multi-Year Implementation Plan for the use of its Direct Component funds; and whereas the MYIP must:

- Describe each program, project and activity for which it seeks funding;
- Include a description of the project's need, purpose, and objectives;
- Identify the eligible activities the project will undertake;
- Include the project location, budget, milestones and projected completion dates, and criteria to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast region;
- Include a map of location of projects to be funded;
- Include documentation of formal adoption;
- Include documentation of noticing and posting of MYIP for public review/comment; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County MYIP has been created pursuant to the Act and the U.S. Treasury Department's Interim Final Rule; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe County MYIP includes three parts: a required "Narrative", a required "Matrix" or spreadsheet, and an additional detailed Plan Document; and

WHEREAS, the scope of this Monroe County MYIP tracks the funds available to Monroe County as of September 2015 (and does not include funds that may come available with future settlements or payments), and consists of three (3) projects as ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee ("Committee") and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners ("BOCC"), and also includes administrative and planning assistance costs to comply with the Act, Guidance and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the MYIP was developed via a public, participatory process that determined the projects ultimately selected for award from Monroe County's Direct Component funding which included the following components:

- A representative committee of local stakeholders was convened and empowered to advise the BOCC on the selection and award of Direct Component (Local Pot) RESTORE Act funds (ie, developing the scoring criteria, overseeing the project application process, and scoring, ranking and recommending projects for award);
- A broad public solicitation for project applications was conducted. The solicitation for projects was publicly noticed via email blasts, advertisements in local newspapers, posting on the County's website, announcements at BOCC meetings, press releases and independent media coverage;
- All project applications were posted on the County's website for public review. The list of project submissions were presented to the BOCC and also covered extensively in the local media;
- Meetings of the committee were open, public meetings that were publicly noticed via email blasts, postings on the County's website, advertisements in local newspapers, and announcements at BOCC meetings. All meeting agendas, materials and presentations, and minutes were and remain posted for public review;
- The scoring and ranking of all projects took place in an open, public meeting that was publicly noticed via advertisements in the local newspapers, notice on the County's website, announcements at BOCC meeting, and independent media coverage;

- The committee's scores and ranking of projects were posted on the County's website for public review;
- At a regularly scheduled BOCC meeting, there was a public presentation and discussion of the Committee's ranking, after which the County Commission approved the ranking and awarded Local Pot funding to the Committee's top three (3) ranked projects;
- Monroe County drafted a Multi-Year Implementation Plan setting forth its projects for Direct Component (Local Pot) Funding, and posted the plan for public review and input for a minimum of 45 days; and
- After soliciting public input, at the September 16th, 2015 meeting of the BOCC, the MYIP was formally approved/adopted by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Treasury Department will review Monroe County's MYIP for completeness and conformity with the Act and Treasury regulations and may request additional information after its review and, pending approval, will notify the County (in writing) that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MONROE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. The Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County Florida hereby adopts and approves the Final Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan dated September 16, 2015, a true copy of which is incorporated herein as Exhibit A to this Resolution.

Section 2. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of County Commissioners of Monroe County, Florida, at a regular meeting of said Board held on the 16th day of September, 2015.

Mayor Danny Kolhage	<u>Yes</u>
Mayor Pro Heather Carruthers	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner George Neugent	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner David Rice	<u>Yes</u>
Commissioner Sylvia Murphy	<u>Yes</u>



Daryl Robertson
Clerk of Court

Monroe County Board of Commissioners

By: *D. P. Kolhage*
Mayor

FILED FOR RECORD
 2015 SEP 25 AM 9:33
 U.L.K. CIR. CL.
 MONROE COUNTY, FLA

**STATE OF FLORIDA
 COUNTY OF MONROE**
 This Copy is a True Copy of the
 Original on File in this Office. Witness
 my hand and Official Seal.



day of Sept
 2015
Daryl Robertson
 Clerk of Court
 D.C.

MONROE COUNTY ATTORNEY
 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
Robert B. Shillinger, Jr.
 COUNTY ATTORNEY
 Date 8-18-15

Appendix D: Demonstration of Noticing of MYIP for Public Review and Public Comments

Attached:

- **Screenshots of Notice of MYIP posting for public review and comment on Monroe County Website**
- **Copy of Press Release**
- **Proof of Notice in Local Newspapers**
- **Public Comments**

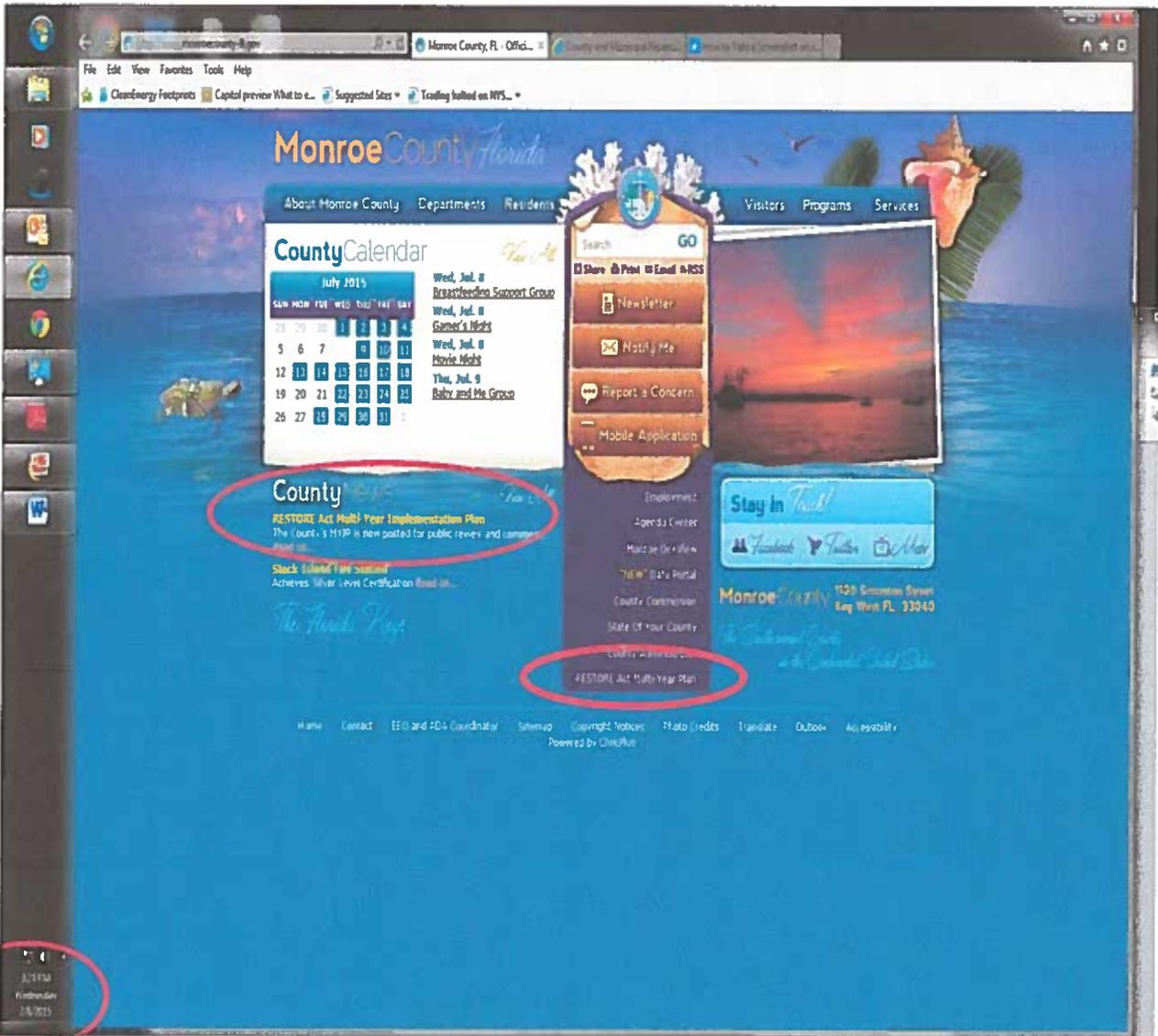
**Screenshots of Announcement and Posting
Of MYIP for Public Review and Comment
On the Monroe County Government Website**

Monroe County MYIP

Posted July 8, 2015

Screen Shots

1) Front/Main Webpage



This is a screenshot of the back end of the website showing

The creation of the MYIP link on the home page.

The MYIP link was created “Last Updated”

7/8/2015, 12:23:02 p.m.

Modify: RESTORE Act Implem... ABC ✓ Cancel Save Save and Preview Save as Copy

Last Updated: 7/8/2015 12:23:02 PM Updated By: Gabe Price

Version Name: RESTORE Act Implementation Plan

Page Description: RESTORE Act Implementation Plan
You have 169 characters left

Content Type: Link
▶ Show Additional Details

Page Type: Link

Link: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=683>

Link's Behavior: Open in new window ▼
Find Page Link

Use Link's Menu: No ▼

This is a screenshot of the back end of the website showing

The End Date of news Items. The MYIP Item will end 8/31/15, and is currently active.

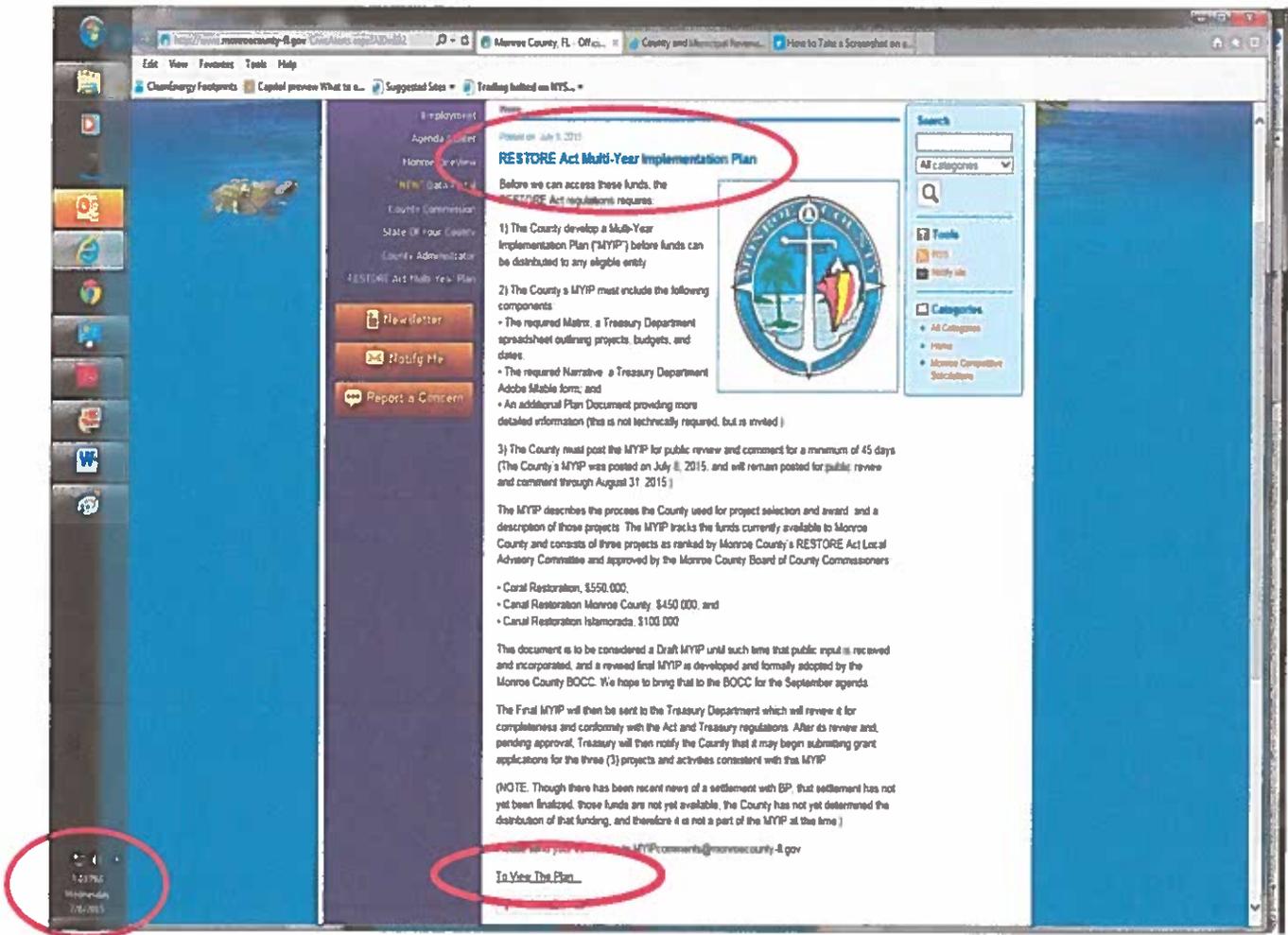
Home				
Title	End Date	Status	Actions	
Unpublished News Flashes				
Check out our new website features	12/31/2200	Draft	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check out our new website features	12/31/2200	Draft	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
Published News Flashes				
⏴ RESTORE Act Multi-Year Implementation Plan	08/31/2015	Active	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
⏴⏵ Stock Island Fire Station	07/31/2015	Active	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
⏴⏵ Press Release - Financial Assistance	08/01/2015	Active	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>
⏴ FDOT Project Updates	10/20/2016	Active	Choose an Action ▼	<input type="checkbox"/>

Monroe County MYIP

Posted July 8, 2015

Screen Shots

2) Link to County News Webpage



Screenshot of the news item created online.

Posted July 8, 2015

Employment

Agenda Center

Monroe OneView

"NEW" Data Portal

County Commission

State Of Your County

County Administrator

RESTORE Act Multi-Year Plan

Newsletter

Notify Me

Report a Concern

Home

Posted on July 8, 2015

RESTORE Act Multi-Year Implementation Plan

Before we can access these funds, the RESTORE Act regulations requires:

1) The County develop a Multi-Year Implementation Plan ("MYIP") before funds can be distributed to any eligible entity.

2) The County's MYIP must include the following components:

- The required Matrix, a Treasury Department spreadsheet outlining projects, budgets, and dates;
- The required Narrative, a Treasury Department Adobe fillable form; and
- An additional Plan Document providing more detailed information (this is not technically required, but is invited.)

3) The County must post the MYIP for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. (The County's MYIP was posted on July 8, 2015, and will remain posted for public review and comment through August 31, 2015.)

The MYIP describes the process the County used for project selection and award, and a description of those projects. The MYIP tracks the funds currently available to Monroe County, and consists of three projects as ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners.

- Coral Restoration, \$550,000;
- Canal Restoration Monroe County, \$450,000; and
- Canal Restoration Islamorada, \$100,000.

This document is to be considered a Draft MYIP until such time that public input is received and incorporated, and a revised final MYIP is developed and formally adopted by the Monroe County BOCC. We hope to bring that to the BOCC for the September agenda.

The Final MYIP will then be sent to the Treasury Department which will review it for completeness and conformity with the Act and Treasury regulations. After its review and pending approval, Treasury will then notify the County that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

(NOTE: Though there has been recent news of a settlement with BP, that settlement has not yet been finalized, those funds are not yet available, the County has not yet determined the distribution of that funding, and therefore it is not a part of the MYIP at this time.)

Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

[To View The Plan...](#)



Search

All categories



Tools

RSS

Notify Me

Categories

- All Categories
- Home
- Monroe Competitive Solicitations

Next →

Stock Island Fire Station

Monroe County MYIP

Posted July 8, 2015

Screen Shots

3) MYIP on RESTORE page of Website

RESTORE Home
Multi-Year Implementation Plan
Local Level Activity
State Level Activity
Federal Level Activity
Treasury Rules
Less

Newsletter
Notify Me
Report a Concern

Multi-Year Implementation Plan

MONROE COUNTY MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is posted here for public review and comment. It consists of three parts (click the links to access each document):

- 1) [The required Matrix](#), a Treasury Department spreadsheet outlining projects, budgets, and dates;
- 2) [The required Narrative](#), a Treasury Department Adobe form; and
- 3) [An additional Plan Document](#) providing more detailed information (this is not technically required, but is advised.)

As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding from civil penalty fines from the responsible parties. The funds available to the County at this time, \$1,167,643, are those from the settlement of Transocean.

Pursuant to RESTORE Act regulations, Monroe County developed the MYIP which describes the process the County used for project selection and award, and a description of those projects. The MYIP tracks the funds currently available to Monroe County and consists of three projects as ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners:

- Coral Restoration, \$150,000;
- Canal Restoration Monroe County, \$450,000; and
- Canal Restoration Islamorada, \$100,000.

Also pursuant to the regulations, Monroe County will post the MYIP for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. (The County's MYIP is posted on July 8, 2015, and will remain posted through August 31, 2015.)

This document is to be considered a Draft MYIP until such time that public input is received and incorporated, and a revised Final MYIP is developed and formally adopted by the Monroe County BOCC. We hope to bring this to the BOCC for the September agenda.

The Final MYIP will then be sent to the Treasury Department for approval. Once approved, Treasury will then notify the County that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

NOTE: Though there has been recent news of a settlement with BP, that settlement has not yet been finalized, those funds are not yet available, the County has not yet determined the distribution of that funding, and therefore it is not a part of the MYIP at this time.)

Contact:
Lisa Tenneyson
Legislative Affairs and
Grants Acquisition Director
[Email](mailto:lisat@monroecounty-fl.gov)

Historic Gato Building
1100 Simonson Street
Key West, FL 33040
Ph: (305) 292-4444
F: (305) 292-4515

Monroe County
1100 Simonson Street
Key West, FL 33040

5:51 PM
Wednesday
7/8/2015

Screenshot of the page created online.

Posted July 8, 2015

Multi-Year Implementation Plan

MONROE COUNTY MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is posted here for public review and comment. It consists of three parts (click the links to access each document):

- 1) [The required Matrix](#), a Treasury Department spreadsheet outlining projects, budgets, and dates;
- 2) [The required Narrative](#), a Treasury Department Adobe form; and
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As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding from civil penalty fines from the responsible parties. The funds available to the County at this time, \$1,167,643, are those from the settlement of Transocean.

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- Coral Restoration, \$550,000.
- Canal Restoration Monroe County, \$450,000; and
- Canal Restoration Islamorada, \$100,000.

Also pursuant to the regulations, Monroe County will post the MYIP for public review and comment for a **minimum** of 45 days. (The County's MYIP is posted on July 8, 2015, and will remain posted through August 31, 2015.)

This document is to be considered a *Draft* MYIP until such time that public input is received and incorporated, and a revised Final MYIP is developed and formally adopted by the Monroe County BOCC. We hope to bring that to the BOCC for the September agenda.

The *Final* MYIP will then be sent to the Treasury Department for approval. Once approved, Treasury will then notify the County that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

(NOTE: Though there has been recent news of a settlement with BP, that settlement has not yet been finalized, those funds are not yet available, the County has not yet determined the distribution of that funding, and therefore it is not a part of the MYIP at this time.)



Contact:

Lisa Tennyson
Legislative Affairs and
Grants Acquisition Director
[Email](#)

Historic Gato Building
1100 Simonton Street
Key West, FL 33040

Ph: (305) 292-4444
Fx: (305) 292-4515

RESTORE Act Home
Year Implementation
Plan
Local Level Activity
State Level Activity
Federal Level Activity
Treasury Rules
Links

Newsletter

Notify Me

Report a Concern

Monroe County
Simonton Street
West FL, 33040

This is a screenshot of the back end of the website showing

The creation of the MYIP page. The MYIP page was created “Last Updated”

7/8/2015, 12:30:24 p.m.

Home > Programs > RESTORE Act > Multi-Year Implementation Plan (NID = 683)

Back Page Menu Show Archived View Published Front-End Edit Help

Modify: Multi-Year Impleme...  Cancel Save Save and Preview Save as Copy

Last Updated: 7/8/2015 12:30:24 PM Updated By: Gabe Price

Version Name: Multi-Year Implementation Plan

Page Description:
You have 200 characters left.

Content Type: Editor [▶ Show Additional Details](#)

Page Type: Editor Available Content Width: 721px / 7.5 in.  Save This Template

Page Title: Multi-Year Implementation Plan



MONROE COUNTY MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (RESTORE ACT)

Posted for Public Review and Comment

As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding from civil penalty fines from the responsible parties. The funds available to the County at this time, \$1,167,643, are those from the settlement of Transocean.

Before we can access these funds, the RESTORE Act regulations requires:

- 1) The County develop a Multi-Year Implementation Plan ("MYIP") before funds can be distributed to any eligible entity.



Contact:

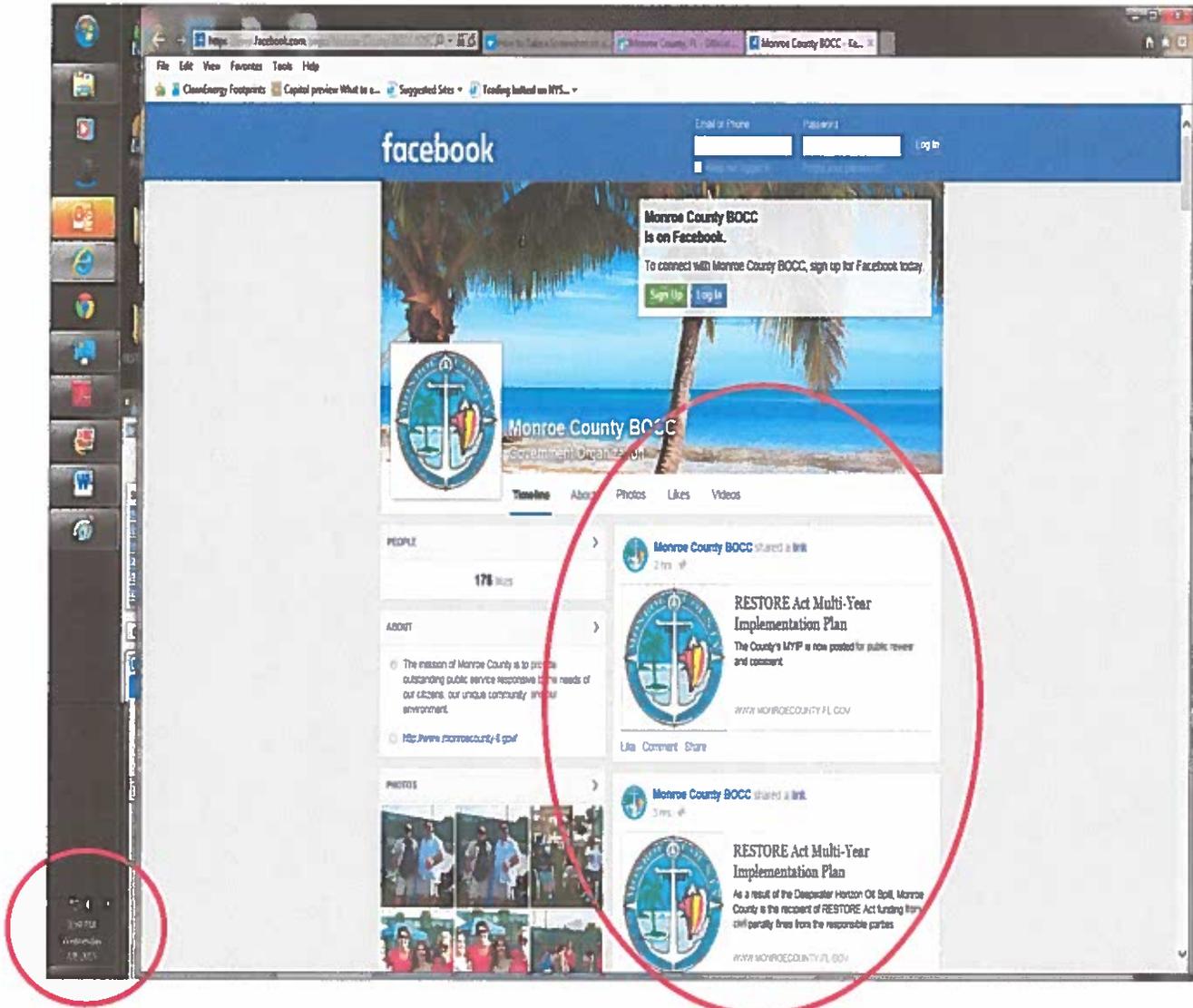
Lisa Tennyson
Legislative Affairs and
Grants Acquisition Director

Monroe County MYIP

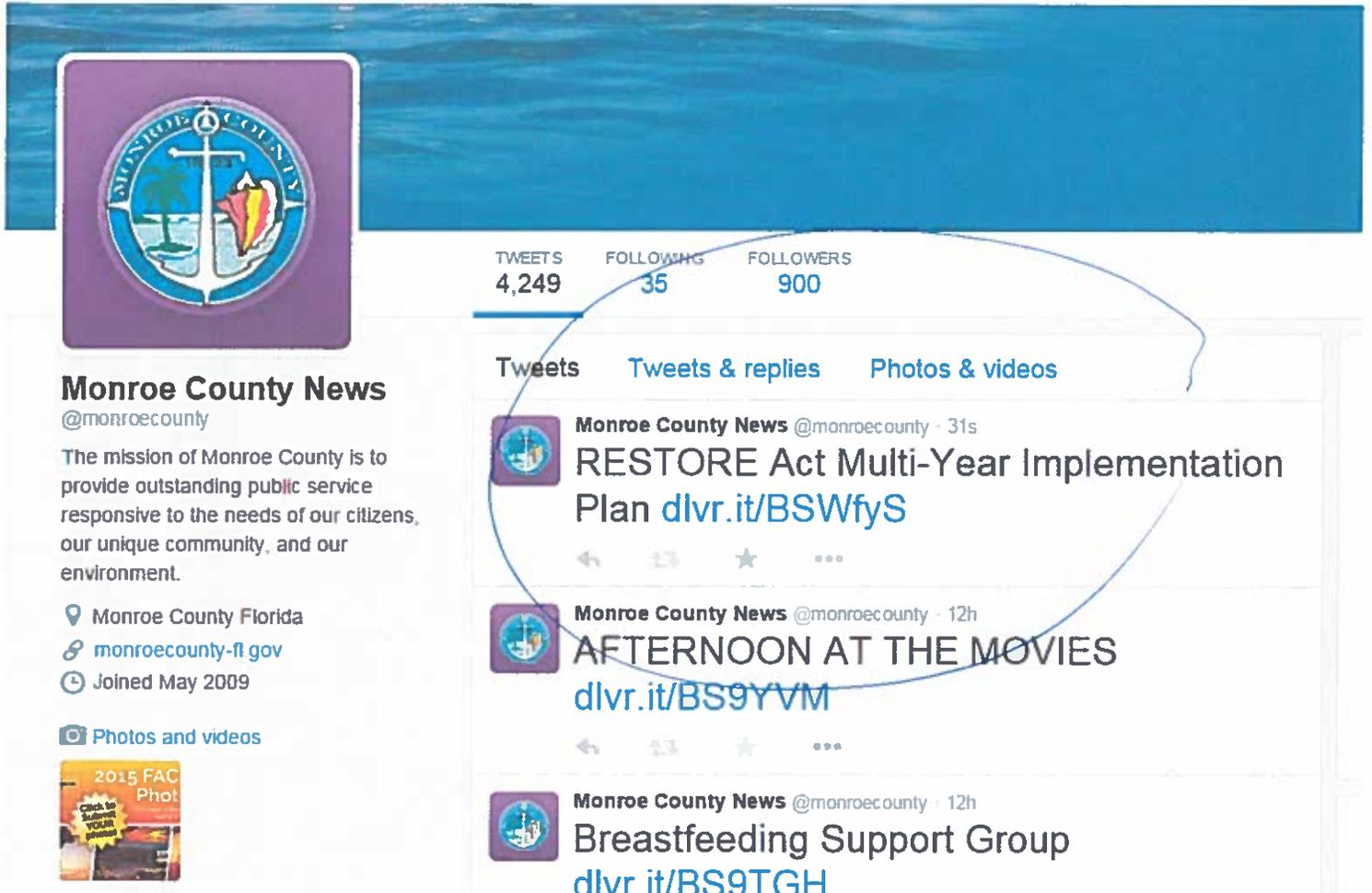
Posted July 8, 2015

Screen Shots

4) Link to MYIP Posted on Monroe County's Facebook Page



This is a screenshot of the facebook page item, generated by our news feed online. Posted July 8, 2015



Monroe County News
@monroecounty

The mission of Monroe County is to provide outstanding public service responsive to the needs of our citizens, our unique community, and our environment.

📍 Monroe County Florida
🌐 monroecounty-fl.gov
🕒 Joined May 2009

📷 Photos and videos

2015 FAC Phot
Click to Submit Your Photo

TWEETS 4,249 FOLLOWING 35 FOLLOWERS 900

Tweets Tweets & replies Photos & videos

Monroe County News @monroecounty · 31s
RESTORE Act Multi-Year Implementation Plan dlvr.it/BSWfyS

Monroe County News @monroecounty · 12h
AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES
dlvr.it/BS9YVM

Monroe County News @monroecounty · 12h
Breastfeeding Support Group
[dlvr it/BS9TGH](http://dlvr.it/BS9TGH)

Copy of Press Release

Announcing MYIP Posting for Public Review and Comment

To Monroe County Media Outlets



Press Release

Monroe County Administrator's Office
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-205
Key West, FL 33040
305-292-444

For Immediate Release

MONROE COUNTY MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (RESTORE ACT)

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is now available for public review and comment on the County's website: www.monroecounty-fl.gov.

As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding from civil penalty fines from the responsible parties. The funds available to the County at this time, \$1,167,643, are those from the settlement of Transocean.

Pursuant to RESTORE Act regulations, Monroe County developed the MYIP which describes the process the County used for project selection and award, and a description of those projects. The MYIP tracks the funds currently available to Monroe County and consists of three projects as ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners:

- Coral Reef Restoration, \$550,000;
- Canal Water Restoration in Monroe County, \$450,000; and
- Canal Water Restoration in Islamorada, \$100,000.

Also pursuant to the regulations, Monroe County will post the MYIP for public review and comment for a minimum of 45 days. The County's MYIP is posted on July 8, 2015, and will remain posted through August 31, 2015.

This document is to be considered a *Draft* MYIP until such time that public input is received and incorporated, and a revised Final MYIP is developed and formally adopted by the Monroe County BOCC. We hope to bring that to the BOCC for the September agenda.

The *Final* MYIP will then be sent to the Treasury Department for approval. Once approved, Treasury will then notify the County that it may begin submitting grant applications for the three (3) projects and activities consistent with this MYIP.

Comments regarding the MYIP may be sent to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov.

(NOTE: Though there has been recent news of a settlement with BP, that settlement has not yet been finalized, those funds are not yet available, the County has not yet determined the distribution of that funding, and therefore it is not a part of the MYIP at this time.)

For additional information, please contact Lisa Tennyson, Director of Legislative Affairs at 305-292-4444.

Public Notices

**Announcing MYIP Posting for Public Review and Comment
in Local Newspapers**

(The Key West Citizen, The Keynoter and The Reporter)

Key West Citizen
July 10, 2015

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF MONROE

MONROE COUNTY'S MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (RESTORE ACT) NOTICE OF POSTING

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is now available for public review and comment on the County's website: www.monroecounty-fl.gov. As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding. Pursuant to RESTORE Act regulations, Monroe County developed the MYIP which describes the projects to be funded. The projects were ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved for award by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners. The MYIP will be posted for a minimum of 45 days. Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

July 10, 2015 The Key West Citizen 411489

signed authority personally appeared Tommy Todd, who on is Advertising Director of the Key West Citizen, a daily shed in Key West, in Monroe County, Florida; that the advertisement, being a legal notice in the matter of

Notice of Posting
Co Restore Act

said newspaper in the issue(s) of

July 10, 2015

Affiant further says that the Key West Citizen is a newspaper published in Key West, in said Monroe County, Florida and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Monroe County, Florida every day, and has been entered as second-class mail matter at the post office in Key West, in said Monroe County, Florida, for a period of 1 year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper.

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Affiant

Sworn and subscribed before me this 10 day of July, 2015

Notary Public:

Dawn Kawzinsky

Dawn Kawzinsky
Expires: 1/4/16



DAWN KAWZINSKY
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF FLORIDA
Comm# EE157233
Expires 1/4/2016

Notary Seal

Personally Known x Produced Identification _____
Type of Identification Produced _____

- NEWSPAPERS**
The Citizen
Florida Keys Free Press
- MARKETING SERVICES**
Commercial Printing
Direct Mail
- FLORIDA KEYS OFFICES**
Printing / Main Facility
3420 Northside Drive
Key West, FL
33040-1800
Tel 305-292-7777
Fax 305-294-0768
citizen@keywest.com
- Internet Division**
Tel 305-292-1880
Fax 305-294-1699
sales@keywest.com
- Upper Keys Office**
91731 Overseas Hwy
Tavernier, FL 33070
Tel 305-853-7277
Fax 305-853-0556
freepress@floridakeys.com

www Design Services

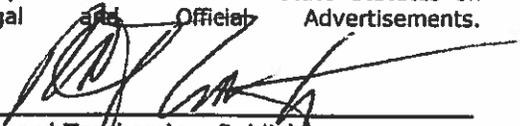
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

**STATE OF FLORIDA
COUNTY OF MONROE**

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared **RICHARD TAMBORRINO** who on oath, says that he is **PUBLISHER** of the **FLORIDA KEYS KEYNOTER**, a twice weekly newspaper published in Marathon, in Monroe County, Florida: that the attached copy of advertisement was published in said newspaper in the issues of: (date(s) of publication)

7-11-15

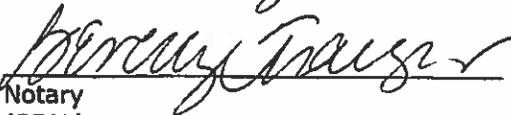
Affiant further says that the said FLORIDA KEYS KEYNOTER is a newspaper published at Marathon, in said Monroe County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Monroe County, Florida, twice each week (on Wednesday and Saturday) and has been entered as a second class mail matter at the post office in Marathon, in Monroe County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement. The affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm, or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper(s) and that The Florida Keys Keynoter is in full compliance with Chapter 50 of the Florida State Statutes on Legal and Official Advertisements.



Richard Tamborrino, Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

19 Day of August, 2015



Notary
(SEAL)



**MONROE COUNTY'S MULTI-YEAR
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (RESTORE ACT)
NOTICE OF POSTING**

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is now available for public review and comment on the County's website: www.monroecounty-fl.gov. As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding. Pursuant to RESTORE Act regulations, Monroe County developed the MYIP which describes the projects to be funded. The projects were ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved for award by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners. The MYIP will be posted for a minimum of 45 days. Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

Published Keynoter 7-11-15

THE REPORTER

Published Weekly
Tavernier, Monroe County, Florida

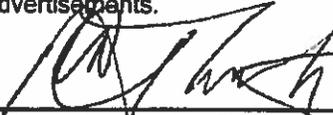
PROOF OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF FLORIDA COUNTY OF MONROE

Before the undersigned authority personally appeared RICHARD TAMBORRINO who on oath, says that he is PUBLISHER of THE REPORTER, a weekly newspaper published in Tavernier, in Monroe County, Florida: that the attached copy of advertisement was published in said newspaper in the issues of: (date(s) of publication)

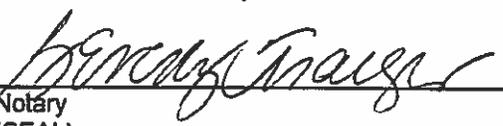
7-17-15

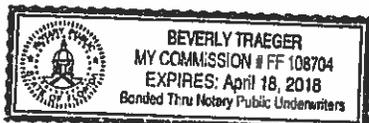
Affiant further says that the said THE REPORTER is a newspaper published at Tavernier, in said Monroe County, Florida, and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Monroe County, Florida, each week (on Friday) and has been entered as a second class mail matter at the post office in Tavernier, in Monroe County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement. The affiant further says that he has neither paid nor promised any person, firm, or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in the said newspaper(s) and that The THE REPORTER is in full compliance with Chapter 50 of the Florida State Statutes on Legal and Official Advertisements.


Richard Tamborrino, Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this

19 Day of August, 2015


Notary
(SEAL)



MONROE COUNTY'S MULTI-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (RESTORE ACT) NOTICE OF POSTING

The Monroe County Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP) is now available for public review and comment on the County's website: www.monroecounty-fl.gov. As a result of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Monroe County is the recipient of RESTORE Act funding. Pursuant to RESTORE Act regulations, Monroe County developed the MYIP which describes the projects to be funded. The projects were ranked by Monroe County's RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee and approved for award by the Monroe County Board of County Commissioners. The MYIP will be posted for a minimum of 45 days. Please send your comments to MYIPcomments@monroecounty-fl.gov

Published Reporter 7-17-15

Public Comment



NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION

SOUTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER
44 East Avenue, Suite 200
Austin, Texas 78701
Local Office: 5295 Powrie Dr, Pensacola, FL 32504

850.332.0266
727.424.0057
www.nwf.org

August 25, 2015

Lisa Tennyson, Legislative Affairs and Grants Acquisition Director
Monroe County Government
Historic Gato Building
1100 Simonton Street
Key West, FL 33040

Re: National Wildlife Federation's Comments on Monroe County's Draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP)

Dear Ms. Tennyson,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on Monroe County's draft Multi-Year Implementation Plan (MYIP).

National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is the nation's largest conservation organization. We have four million members and supporters nationally, hundreds of whom reside in Monroe County. Working closely with our state partner Florida Wildlife Federation, we have been on the ground, lobbying for comprehensive Gulf restoration in the wake of the 2010 BP oil spill. Our work has been focused on long-lasting efforts, such as coastal and watershed protection. The work that began with the passage of the RESTORE Act is now directed towards supporting ecological restoration. We have been closely following as Florida's 23 Gulf Coast Counties consider projects to fund with their Direct Component funds available through the RESTORE Act, as they develop Multi-Year Implementation Plans (MYIP).

Working with a coalition of organizations in Florida, NWF and its partners crafted a restoration framework with project outcomes and guiding principles (outlined in a separate comment letter). We encourage Monroe County to keep these themes in mind while planning and implementing restoration activities.

In addition to these themes and principles, NWF has also reviewed Monroe County's MYIP, and wishes to present comments on the two main components of the MYIP: **Process** and **Projects**.

Process:

In 2014, the U.S. Treasury Department issued their "Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance". This Guidance provides critical context for ensuring an effective process and describes the following:

As a prerequisite under the RESTORE Act for requesting and receiving Direct Component funding for eligible activities, each applicant must submit a multiyear plan to cover a period of time during which projects could be undertaken with funds available from the Trust Fund...An

applicant must use the form shown at Section 4.0 for its multiyear plans... The multiyear plan must include the Multiyear Implementation Matrix, a map showing the locations where the work will be performed, and the narrative description. An applicant must provide detail on planned activities in the multiyear plan, including the information required in the multiyear plan matrix and narrative in Section 4.0. The multiyear plan must be available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations. If the applicant has developed a more detailed multiyear plan document in addition to the forms in Section 4.0, the document should be included as an attachment to the multiyear plan submission to Treasury.

Our analysis indicates that Monroe County has met and in many cases exceeded the requirements outlined in the Treasury Guidance. We applaud Monroe County's MYIP process, and hope other counties use your process as a model for development of their own MYIPs.

Website:

We are pleased Monroe County established a website with process-related information clearly posted, including overview of process, Advisory Committee members, agendas and minutes from Committee meetings, list of submitted projects (and links to Project Applications), evaluation forms and score sheets, and project scores and ranking. It is important to the transparency and integrity of the process to clearly indicate methods used for soliciting and evaluating project proposals, and Monroe County has done an excellent job at this.

Public Engagement:

The MYIP recognizes that projects must be selected based on "meaningful input from the public, including broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, and nonprofit organizations..." Monroe County appears to have successfully engaged this broad-based participation in the selection of its Advisory Committee with members representing the relevant and appropriate sectors of the community. In addition, Monroe County made their MYIP available for public comment for 52 days (more than the 45 days required by Treasury). This additional time allowed for more public comment and review.

Best Available Science:

According to the Treasury Guidance, projects related to Natural Resources are required to be based on "Best Available Science" (BAS). The section on BAS in Monroe County's MYIP is comprehensive and thorough. Providing both the context and background, as well as reviewing the existing research and literature provides the basis for a sound scientific review. Once again, we applaud Monroe County and hope this MYIP serves as a model for others.

Projects:

The Gulf Coast's economy and way of life are deeply entwined with the land and the water. The fines and penalties from the Deepwater Horizon disaster have great potential to restore and protect the Gulf of Mexico's lands, waters, wildlife, communities, and economy. However, there is a risk that some of these funds could be spent unwisely—even squandered on projects that would harm the very places the money was intended to benefit. The public can and should insist that all recovery monies are spent in a science-driven, transparent process that ensures a healthy Gulf of Mexico for wildlife as well as for future generations.

We wholly support the projects that Monroe County has selected for its initial MYIP. The three projects (Coral Reef Restoration, Canal Water Quality Restoration in Unincorporated Monroe County Canals, and Canal Water Quality Restoration in Islamorada Canals) each fall under multiple RESTORE Act Eligible Activities, have clearly identified objectives, need and purpose, and benefits. In addition, the milestones and project success criteria for all three projects appears reasonable and achievable. Of note, the Proposed Timeline for the Coral Reef Restoration project indicates the first Proposed Action will take place in July 2015 (last month). Given that the MYIP has not yet been finalized, the July 2015 date may need to be adjusted if it is intended to correspond with the MYIP and a Treasury approval timeline. In addition, the funding and budget information provided in the MYIP matrix and Project Information Sheets is not detailed enough to achieve a true understanding of either the project costs or the match. This information may not be necessary for the Treasury approval or for the public.

Conclusion:

We applaud Monroe County for being leaders in the state and among the first to select projects and prepare a Draft MYIP. Given our experience with all 23 Gulf Coast Counties, Monroe County has demonstrated itself to be a leader in RESTORE Act implementation. We encourage you to offer guidance and assistance to other counties developing their own MYIPs. We optimistically anticipate Monroe County taking the same thorough and comprehensive approach with future installments of Direct Component funding (following the BP settlement), and welcome the opportunity to support future ecologically-focused restoration projects.

Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me to further discuss these comments and recommendations.

Sincerely,

Jessica Koelsch
Florida Policy Specialist
National Wildlife Federation

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Meagan Hull <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 11:31 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 30, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

Some of the highest priorities for our community are clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and improving natural habitats. The projects you selected to complete with the Gulf spill restoration dollars restoring coral reefs and improving water quality in County canals will both directly and indirectly help the environment, improve quality of life for locals, attract visitors and in turn boost our economy.

I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Meagan Hull
19585 Date Palm Dr
✓ Summerland Key, FL 33042-3111
morrisonmeagan2014@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Carmen Prebel <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2015 11:01 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 30, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Carmen Prebel
24 Dockside Ln
Key Largo, FL 33037-5267
keowee97@aol.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Devin Morris <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:36 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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As a recent graduate of the University of Tampa, with an environmental science degree, I would like to learn more about how to get involved with the restoration projects that will be going on in South Florida and Monroe County.

Sincerely,

Mr. Devin Morris

212 Palm Ave

✓ Islamorada, FL 33036-3786

devinmorris.9315@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Gianna Krstic <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 9:32 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Gianna Krstic
188 Ocean Dr
✓ Tavernier, FL 33070-2339
giannaloveslife@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Christine King <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 9:32 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Christine King
1590 Gardenia Ln
✓ Big Pine Key, FL 33043-6075
chrissykings@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of terry griffo <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 6:33 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. terry griffo
27 Snapper Ave
Key Largo, FL 33037-4755
tgriffo@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Karin Wolfe <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 7:33 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Karin Wolfe
6 Ironwood Dr
Islamorada, FL 33036-3625
karin_wolfe@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of
STEPHEN SELBY <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:03 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mr. STEPHEN SELBY
1107 Key Plz # 180
Key West, FL 33040-4077
atlanticgulfsupply@att.net

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Elizabeth Eubanks <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 1:55 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Dr. Elizabeth Eubanks
31587 Avenue D
Big Pine Key, FL 33043-4531
ocon3333@bellsouth.net

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Devin Morris <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 26, 2015 10:36 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

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Sincerely,

Mr. Devin Morris
212 Palm Ave
Islamorada, FL 33036-3786
devinmorris.9315@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of KAREN SADOFF <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:42 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 26, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. KAREN SADOFF
714 Elizabeth St
Apt D
Key West, FL 33040-6400
ksadof@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of nancy forrester <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 8:21 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 27, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. nancy forrester
518 Elizabeth St
Key West, FL 33040-6821
nancy_forrester@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Sallie Korte <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 5:28 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 27, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sallie Korte
325 Calusa St
Key Largo, FL 33037-2641
islandsallie101@hotmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Suzanne Mason <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2015 10:27 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 27, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Ms. Suzanne Mason
10 Lauderdale Dr
Key Largo, FL 33037-2515
semason@bellsouth.net

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of M.L Drousse <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Saturday, August 29, 2015 10:30 AM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 29, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. M.L Drousse
26875 Old State Road 4a # Rd.4a
Summerland Key, FL 33042-5333
marte41@mac.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Alan Mineo <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 7:32 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Alan Mineo
1424 Newton St Apt B
Key West, FL 33040-7073
aljimin@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of April Schoeneman <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 6:32 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Ms. April Schoeneman
Overseas Hwy
Islamorada, FL 33036-3107
aprilsgotaway@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Larry Benvenuti <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 5:31 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mr. Larry Benvenuti
PO Box 501403
Marathon, FL 33050-1403
larbabes1@aol.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of michele wildman-powell <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 5:31 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mrs. michele wildman-powell
301 White St Apt 4a
Key West, FL 33040-6980
michelepowell321@hotmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of H
McKee <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 5:02 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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Sincerely,

Mr. H McKee
515 Unid St
Key West, FL 33040
keywsun@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Jeffrey Greene <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:31 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

Some of the highest priorities for our community are clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and improving natural habitats. The projects you selected to complete with the Gulf spill restoration dollars restoring coral reefs and improving water quality in County canals will both directly and indirectly help the environment, improve quality of life for locals, attract visitors and in turn boost our economy.

I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey Greene
3920 S Roosevelt Blvd Apt 207w
Key West, FL 33040-2307
wheel1622@gmail.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Todd Milligan <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mr. Todd Milligan
PO Box 1834
Tavernier, FL 33070-1834
toddmilligan@bellsouth.net

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Michael Stella <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael Stella
529 Elizabeth St Unit 1
Key West, FL 33040-6820
michael-stella@comcast.net

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of Cynthia Edwards <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 4:01 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

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I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. Cynthia Edwards
1402 Olivia St Apt 1
Key West, FL 33040-7211
cw.edwards@yahoo.com

Tennyson-Lisa

From: National Wildlife Federation <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org> on behalf of LJ Dennehy <NationalWildlifeFederation@nwf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 3:31 PM
To: Tennyson-Lisa
Subject: Thank you for restoration projects that benefit wildlife.

Aug 25, 2015

Monroe County RESTORE Act Coordinator
FL

Dear RESTORE Act Coordinator,

I care deeply about the fish, wildlife, and natural areas in Monroe County. The 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico was a horrible tragedy, and it is imperative that we use the restoration funds resulting from the spill to improve the water quality and restore fish, wildlife, and their habitats locally, so we can repair the Gulf Coast as a whole.

Some of the highest priorities for our community are clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and improving natural habitats. The projects you selected to complete with the Gulf spill restoration dollars restoring coral reefs and improving water quality in County canals will both directly and indirectly help the environment, improve quality of life for locals, attract visitors and in turn boost our economy.

I support the projects that you have selected for this initial round of funding and I encourage you to take a similar approach when additional restoration funds become available.

Sincerely,

Ms. LJ Dennehy
PO Box 863
Islamorada, FL 33036-0863
ocnchld@gmail.com

Appendix E: General Media Coverage of Monroe County RESTORE Act Activities

Attached:

- **Letters to the Editor from National Wildlife Federation and The Nature Conservancy**
- **Various Examples of Local Press Coverage and County Press Releases**

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Letter: Environment should benefit from RESTORE

By

Published: Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 10:44 AM.

Last week, a Bay County advisory committee considered almost two dozen projects that could be funded with restoration money from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The RESTORE Act provides all 23 Gulf Coast counties in Florida the opportunity to fund environmental, economic, tourism, infrastructure and/or job creation projects in their community. So far, only two other Florida counties — Hernando and Monroe — have selected projects to submit for RESTORE Act funding. Both counties have wisely chosen to focus on projects that will directly benefit the environment.

Monroe County, in the Florida Keys, will restore and rebuild coral reefs and improve water quality by repairing aging canals. Hernando County (north of Tampa Bay) will restore salt marshes, make shoreline improvements to address water quality and construct fish habitat. The National Wildlife Federation applauds these two counties for selecting projects that will benefit the environment, improve quality of life for locals, attract visitors and boost the economy.

As they prepare to recommend projects for funding, we encourage the Bay County RESTORE committee to look closely at projects that will have both economic and environmental benefits.

This might include addressing the continuous outfalls on Panama City Beach, converting Laguna Beach from septic to sewer, developing the Gulf World Marine Institute, cleaning up stormwater and assessing water quality improvement needs. Bay County's beaches and waters are key drivers of the local economy. These projects would tangibly and visibly improve natural systems, making Bay County an even more desirable place to live, visit, and to do business.

Jessica Koelsch

Koelsch is a Florida policy specialist with the National Wildlife Federation

BP spill money allocated for canal restoration, coral farms

BY KEVIN WADLOW

kwadlow@keynoter.com February 21, 2015

Coral-restoration efforts will get half of Monroe County's \$1.1 million in the first water-pollution fines from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, and Islamorada was awarded a \$100,000 slice for canal restoration work.

Monroe County commissioners, meeting Wednesday at the Murray E. Nelson Government and Cultural Center in Key Largo, approved a spending plan for the first installment of RESTORE Act funding for the Keys.

Islamorada's \$100,000 share comes out of \$550,000 proposed for the county's own canal-restoration pilot projects.

Commissioners opted to include Islamorada in the RESTORE Act budget after village Mayor Mike Forster said allocating half the total to the unincorporated county's own projects creates "a perception that really doesn't go over well. We're partners."

Islamorada already has installed one air-bubbler curtain at Treasure Harbor with municipal funding. "We're shovel-ready on two smaller projects," said Susan Sprunt, Islamorada canal-project manager.

Work to install two weed-barrier projects at \$50,000 each is "ready to go immediately," Sprunt said.

Commissioner Sylvia Murphy commended Islamorada for moving quickly on efforts to improve water quality in its canals. "Islamorada is the only [Keys city] that put up money to do a pilot project and got it done," she said. "I have a problem not rewarding that."

Other commissioners agreed.

The Nature Conservancy will administer the \$550,000 coral-restoration grant for new reef plantings by the Coral Restoration Foundation in the Upper Keys, Mote Marine Laboratory in the Lower Keys and the state Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in the Middle Keys.

In addition to staghorn coral, Mote will expand a project to revive boulder corals with replantings, said Chris Bergh of the Nature Conservancy.

Reef restoration using corals grown in underwater nurseries "has been shown to be very successful and we're excited about having funds to proceed," Bergh said.

The money comes from a settlement reached between the federal government and Transocean Deepwater Inc., which owned the rig that exploded and burned in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. Eleven men died in the explosion, which led to an estimated 200 million gallons of crude spewing into the gulf.

Additional RESTORE Act funds are expected when a final decision on BP's pollution liability is confirmed.

No oil reached the Keys but the threat of it was enough to keep lots of tourists away, spelling problems for businesses.

In other action Wednesday, commissioners:

- Agreed in principle to Key West's proposal to use land-acquisition money for affordable-housing property outside city limits. Commissioner Heather Carruthers said she wants further clarification to ensure the money goes to workforce housing, not a homeless shelter.
- Agreed to work with the Trust for Public Lands to seek more state funding for conservation land buys in the Keys during the state budget process.
- Approved the county's priorities for requests from Congress. Most center on water-quality funding and receiving payments in lieu of taxes for federal lands in the Keys.

Published on KeysNews.com (<http://keysnews.com>)

County to vote on coral, canal project funding

Key West Citizen
2/15/2015

Sunday, February 15, 2015

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA Citizen Staff
tohara@keysnews.com

The Monroe County Commission will vote Wednesday on allocating \$1.1 million to coral and canal restoration projects.

The projects were among the top choices of the local Restore Act committee, which was established by the county commission to rank and make recommendations on roughly 40 projects seeking federal funding.

The local committee ranked The Nature Conservancy's coral restoration work in the Florida Keys and the county's canal restoration projects as the top two projects. County staff is recommending that the two groups split the \$1.1 million, with each group getting \$550,000.

"We want to be mindful to minimize county resources necessary for ongoing grant management and oversight due to the program's very low 3 percent administrative cost reimbursement limit," Monroe County Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson said. "So, staff is recommending that the commission consider making fewer awards to the projects, in this case the top two ranked projects that show the most promise to deliver clear and measurable benefits, have timely start and finish dates, and whose sponsors have the capacity and experience to manage rigorous federal grant program requirements."

The county commission will vote on staff's recommendation when it meets at 9 a.m. Wednesday at the Murray Nelson Government Center, 102050 Overseas Highway, Key Largo.

The Nature Conservancy initially requested \$1.1 million for its coral restoration projects with Mote Marine Laboratory, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the Coral Restoration Foundation in the Upper Keys.

All three groups have reared hundreds of thousands of corals in their nurseries in the past decade. Many of those corals have been replanted on the Florida Keys reef have begun to spawn and reproduce.

The \$500,000 would facilitate the rearing and planting of 20,000 staghorn corals and 15,000 boulder coral fragments, said Chris Bergh, Florida Keys program manager for The Nature Conservancy coral recovery effort.

"That's a lot of coral," Bergh said. "Every one of those corals has the ability to grow and become habitat and to spawn."

Monroe County's plan for the second project is to improve the water quality in the canals in unincorporated areas through a series of restoration and dredging projects.

Restore Act funding comes from Clean Water Act fines placed on Transocean and B.P. for their roles in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

tohara@keysnews.com



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Two projects recommended for BP money

Panel proposals canal cleanups,
coral nurseries

By KEVIN WADLOW

Senior Staff Writer

kwadlow@keynoter.com

*Keynoter
2/11/2015*

Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Baby corals and dirty canals seem likely to benefit from Monroe County's first allocation of water-pollution fines from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in April 2010.

Coral-restoration efforts at several Florida Keys underwater nurseries and money for the Monroe County's canal-restoration test projects will be recommended for RESTORE Act funding to the Monroe County Commission, meeting Feb. 18 in Key Largo.

The two proposals won the top two spots of 10 ranked applications considered by the 11 members of the county's RESTORE Act Advisory Committee. Each project was recommended for a \$550,819 grant.

"We're happy that people think coral restoration is important," said Caitlin Lustic, coral-recovery coordinator for The Nature Conservancy in the Keys. "Nobody gets too mad about getting money to grow coral."

The coral-restoration money will allocate funding to at least three existing staghorn coral nurseries in the Keys run by the Coral Restoration Foundation in the Upper Keys, Mote Marine Laboratory in the Lower Keys and the state's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in the Middle Keys.

An additional Dry Tortugas nursery run by The Nature Conservancy and National Park Service also may be eligible

Money for coral restoration primarily would go to costs for staff and boat transportation to transplant nursery-grown staghorn at damaged reef sites, Lustic said.

"The nurseries have tons of coral ready to go," Lustic said. "The number of new out planting sites will be based on how much money is available."

If commissioners agree, Monroe County would likely use the RESTORE Act money to move forward on some of the five different canal-restoration projects it is testing.

"These would be smaller projects like installing culverts for water flow, or air-curtain bubblers," said Rhonda Haag, manager of the county's canal program.

The money comes from the \$1 billion settlement with the federal government with Transocean Deepwater Inc., which owned the oil-drilling rig that exploded and burned in the gulf, causing the nation's worst-ever oil spill. Eleven men died on the rig.

The U.S. Department of the Treasury notified Monroe County that it will receive about \$1.1 million as its dedicated share from Clean Water Act fines assessed against Trans-ocean. Fines against the BP oil company are expected to be significantly larger but that case is mired in a lawsuit.

The RESTORE Act was passed by Congress to ensure that pollution fines from the Deepwater Horizon spill go toward environmental or economic restoration. No oil reached the Keys but merely the threat of it caused tourism to dip in summer 2010.

Published on KeysNews.com (<http://storm.keysnews.com>)

Key West
Citizen
1/18/2015

County leads the way on Gulf of Mexico restoration

Nature
Conservancy
Support

Sunday, January 18, 2015

The Monroe County Restore Act Advisory Committee recently ranked potential projects for funding with money soon to be available from "Bucket 1" of the Restore Act. The committee selected a project to accelerate restoration of the coral reefs in the Florida Keys as its first priority. This recommendation recognizes the importance of healthy natural features to the economic and environmental future of the Keys and the Gulf as a whole.

The Restore Act was passed by Congress to insure that most fines from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill are returned for restoration of the Gulf of Mexico. Restore funds are distributed to the Gulf region through a formula, and "Bucket 1" funds are those that can be used by states and counties for a broad range of purposes, including investment in economic redevelopment activities such as roads and other infrastructure.

The Monroe County committee's recommendation was significant because, by ranking the coral reef project as its first priority, the committee recognized that in a place where tourism is the most important industry, it makes sense to think of the reef as an asset just as deserving of investment as traditional infrastructure such as highways and bridges. And healthy reefs have another critical benefit -- they serve as natural breakwaters to protect the land from storm waves.

Other natural features across the gulf, including oyster reefs, barrier islands, coastal forests and marshes, also provide tangible benefits to communities including opportunities for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and storm surge protection.

As the various government agencies and committees in the five gulf states think about how to invest the money that will be allocated under the Restore Act, including those funds that might be used for a variety of purposes, one would hope they would look carefully at the example of the Monroe County Restore Advisory Committee and realize that the natural features and systems of the Gulf of Mexico region provide services to their communities that are every bit as valuable (and even more durable in the face of change) as projects built out of concrete and steel.

Bob Bendick

Gulf of Mexico

program director

The Nature Conservancy

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Letters to the editor

Dec 21, 2014
Citizen

Monroe County takes lead on Gulf restoration funding

Recently, the Monroe County RESTORE Committee (made up of community leaders appointed by the county commissioners) considered projects to implement with money from BP's oil spill fines that will be available via the RESTORE Act. Monroe County will soon receive \$1.16 million — and far more money should be available a few years down the road.

After reviewing proposals and listening to presentations for over 40 projects, the committee ranked the projects and voted to submit the entire list, with the top-ranked projects highlighted, to Board of County Commissioners. Monroe is the first county to send a ranked list to their commission, and I hope this serves as an example to the other 22 Gulf counties, given the strong focus on projects that will benefit the ecology and economy of the Keys community.

The committee did an outstanding job, with projects at the top of the list that address major needs and will have a lasting impact on the health of the Keys. These projects might not otherwise be accomplished without funding through the RESTORE Act.

The highest ranked projects restoration of coral reefs, water quality improvements in canals, control and removal of invasive lionfish, and restoration of Cape Sable wetlands are exactly the types that local and state governments should be conducting with RESTORE Act funds. Bravo Monroe!

Let's all urge the county commissioners to get these important projects underway and improve the Keys environment and economy.

Jessica Koelsch
Florida policy specialist
Gulf of Mexico Restoration
National Wildlife Federation

Published on KeysNews.com (<http://keysnews.com>)

Back to work for Restore Act committee

Tuesday, September 16, 2014

Key West Citizen
2/16/2014

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA Citizen Staff
tohara@keysnews.com

A committee tasked with making recommendations on nearly \$1.2 million in federal grants for environmental and capital improvement projects in the Florida Keys will reconvene later this month, after being on hiatus since November 2013.

The local committee will meet Sept. 26 at the Marathon Government Center.

The Monroe County government established the local committee to oversee the allocation of Restore Act funding designated specifically for the county. The committee will make recommendations to the county commission, which is responsible for the allocation of the nearly \$1.2 million to come to Monroe County through what is known as a "local pot" of Restore Act money.

The county is also applying for other pots of federal Restore Act funding.

Federal Restore Act funds come from Clean Water Act fines levied on B.P. and Transocean for the Deepwater Horizon oil.

Roughly 46 groups have applied for \$71 million in funding from the local pot of money.

The local committee had been on hiatus because it was waiting on rules from the U.S. Department of Treasury about the disbursement of funds. Last month, the department published a new rule in the Federal Register that sets up the framework for how Restore Act money will be distributed to Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas.

"There's a lot we (the committee) need to talk about," County Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson said.

Tennyson, County Administrator Roman Gastesi and County Commissioner George Neugent have been active in the Restore Act process, and have regularly attended and participated in Gulf Consortium meetings. Neugent is not only on the Gulf Consortium, set up to allocate Restore Act funds, but he also serves on the consortium's executive committee.

All three county officials are in Walton County this week for a Gulf Consortium meeting. Gastesi, who is part of the consortium's evaluation team, will be given a presentation on evaluation criteria at this week's meeting.

"We (Monroe County) are perceived as very engaged and very active," Tennyson said.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill released millions of barrels of crude oil in the Gulf waters and

caused extensive damage to marine and wildlife habitats, fishing and tourism from Louisiana to Florida. In 2012, President Barack Obama signed the Restore Act into law, establishing a trust fund within the Department of Treasury with 80 percent of the civil penalties to be paid by parties responsible for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

A list of all local groups that have applied for a share of Restore Act funds, and information on the Restore Act can be found at the county's website at www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?nid=432.

tohara@keysnews.com

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Thursday, July 18, 2013

County Commission looking for a few good projects to fund

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA Citizen Staff
tohara@keysnews.com (mailto:tohara@keysnews.com)

*Key West Citizen
7/18/2013*

The Monroe County Commission on Wednesday approved the criteria and application form for projects to be funded through fines levied on BP and Transocean for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

The commission also selected its own top projects it wants funded through the fines, which will come to the county through the federal Restore Act

From July 22 to Aug. 30, Monroe County will accept applications for roughly \$11 million in environmental restoration and marine-based economic development projects. The applications are available on the Restore Act section of the county's website

The Local (Restore Act) Advisory Committee, established in February, will review and rank the applications in one or more public meetings in September, county Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson said. The County Commission will ultimately decide what projects will be funded.

The 11-member advisory committee, comprising local government leaders, scientists, business owners and fishermen, has met three times

Projects must have an environmental or economic benefit, or both, Tennyson said

The commission also agreed to four priority projects it wants funded separate from the projects that will go before the advisory committee.



From a "local pot" of money, the commission agreed to request \$3 million for stormwater projects, \$2 million for canal restoration and \$1 million for mooring fields, the meeting agenda states.

From a statewide "consortium pot," the commission agreed to request \$5 million for stormwater projects, \$5 million for canal restoration projects, \$4.5 million for mooring fields and \$6 million for acquisition of conservation lands, the agenda states.

Also at the Wednesday meeting, the commission agreed to support coral nurseries and restoration sites as "zoological parks," which would make them eligible for county Tourist Development Council (TDC) funding.

The commission agreed to request a state Attorney General's Office opinion to determine if the coral nurseries and restoration sites meet the legal requirement of being zoological parks.

Commissioners Danny Kolhage and Heather Carruthers voted against the designation, because the Monroe County Attorney's Office researched it and ruled it not eligible.

The two commissioners did vote in favor of having the Attorney General's Office opine on the matter, though.

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council members Dave Vaughan and Chris Bergh and sanctuary regional administrator Billy Causey attended Wednesday's meeting to support giving the coral nurseries and restoration sites the zoological park designation.

Last week, the Sanctuary Advisory Council voted for it.

Causey, Vaughan and Bergh cited the benefits of reef restoration and how coral nurseries and restoration sites in the Keys have become destinations for divers and scientists around the world.

Bergh argued that nurseries themselves are zoos.

"Zoological parks, or zoos as they are called on the street, are places where people are guaranteed they can go and see animals," Bergh said.

"A coral nursery is a place to see animals. The corals themselves are animals. There are invertebrates. There is marine life ...

"I think it fits as a zoological park. It makes sense. I would classify the whole entire Keys reef as a zoological park."

Some Keys dive shops have begun to offer ecotourism packages that include working at coral nurseries and restoration sites.

Amy Slate's Amoray Dive Resort in Key Largo regularly offers dive trips to coral biologist Ken Nedimyer's nurseries and restoration sites off the Upper Keys.

Mote also regularly takes visiting divers and scientists to its coral nursery and transplant site off Big Pine Key.

Bergh also told the commission that all corals grown at nurseries in the Keys stay in the Keys and are not sold or shipped to other areas of the world.

There are attorney general opinions that have classified ships sunk as artificial reefs as nature centers.

"If we can put (TDC) money toward artificial reefs, we should have the ability to put it toward the natural reef," Vaughan said.

"The more people that come to see the reef, the more people will want to save it."

Commissioner Sylvia Murphy argued that if the Attorney General's Office does not support classifying the nurseries and restoration sites as a zoological parks or nature centers, the county should push to change state law to allow it.

"When the rules were set up, no one knew you could do this," Murphy said. "If it doesn't fit as a nature center, maybe a new category should be established. It (coral restoration) works and it's the future."

tohara@keysnews.com

<mailto:tohara@keysnews.com> (mailto:tohara@keysnews.com) subject: County Commission looking for a few good projects to fund | KEYSNEWS.COM&body=http://keysnews.com/node/489011

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Published on KeysNews.com (<http://keysnews.com>)

Group to dole out BP money

Tuesday, October 22, 2013

BY TIMOTHY O'HARA Citizen Staff
tohara@keysnews.com

*Key West Citizen
10/22/2013*

A local committee, tasked with making recommendations about how to spend millions of dollars coming to the Florida Keys, will hold its first meeting in months to discuss formulas to distribute the money.

The Monroe County Commission selected the Local Advisory Committee earlier this year to make recommendations on how to spend \$11 million in money from federal Cleanwater Act fines levied on BP and Transocean for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The funds are part of the Gulf of Mexico Restore Act.

The committee is tentatively scheduled to meet at 9 a.m. Nov. 8, at the Marathon Government Center.

This will be the first time the committee has met since 33 local government agencies and private groups submitted \$48 million worth of applications for funding. The committee will eventually make recommendations on which and how many of the 33 projects to fund.

Committee member Bill Kelly realizes the committee can't support funding all projects, even partially, as that would water down the pot of money, he said.

"They all have merit," Kelly said. "I want to see shovel-ready projects -- projects that bring in the most bang for the buck and projects that are going to bring a considerable benefit to the environment and the economy."

Committee member Todd German supports "fully funding a bunch of little projects, where you can see the results," he said.

"They are not beholden to anyone like the government proposals," German said.

The city governments of Key Colony Beach, Key West and Marathon, and Monroe County itself, all submitted applications for funding.

Key Colony Beach requested \$6.6 million for canal restoration, wastewater and stormwater projects, according to its application.

Monroe County requested \$6 million for stormwater, canal restoration and mooring field projections.

Key West asked for \$8.6 million for the revitalization of the Truman Waterfront, said county Legislative Affairs Director Lisa Tennyson, who oversees the Local Advisory Committee.

Marathon requested \$14 million for canal and tidal restoration projects, and for the redevelopment of Sunset Park, which leads to the Old Seven Mile Bridge, Tennyson said.

Several local and national nonprofit organizations have requested funding as well.

The Nature Conservancy asked for \$1.3 million for coral nursery and coral restoration projects to be run in conjunction with Mote Marine Lab and the Coral Restoration Foundation, Tennyson said.

The Key Largo-based Reef Environmental Education Foundation has requested \$630,000 to continue its efforts to eradicate invasive lionfish populations, according to the group's application.

The Key West Wildlife Center requested \$637,000 for facility upgrades; and the Florida Keys Wild Bird Center requested \$500,000 for capital improvements, Tennyson said.

The Key West Botanical Garden requested \$1.1 million for restoration projects, according to its application.

All the project applications will be listed on the Restore Act section of the county website at www.monroecounty-fl.gov.

Outside of the local pot of money, there are also a federal and state Restore Act funds that Keys governments, agencies and private groups can apply for.

tohara@keysnews.com



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Press Release

Monroe County Administrator's Office
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-205
Key West, FL 33040
305-292-4441

July 18, 2013

NOTICE OF RESTORE ACT PROJECT FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Monroe County will receive funding under the RESTORE Act, when it becomes available, and has opened its project solicitation process. RESTORE Act funding will derive from civil fines or penalties paid by BP under the Clean Water Act. As required by RESTORE Act law, projects eligible for funding must meet one or more of the following uses:

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improvements to state parks in coastal areas affected by Deep Water Horizon spill
- Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including ports
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- Planning assistance
- Promotion of tourism, including recreational fishing
- Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region

Project Submittal Forms are available on the Monroe County RESTORE Act webpage or by email request (tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov or cyr-connie@monroecounty-fl.gov); or, for a hard copy, by visiting the County Administrator's Offices at the Historic Gato Building in Key West and at the Key Largo Government Center, or the Growth Management Office in the Marathon Government Center.

To be considered for funding, projects must meet one or more of the above uses and submit completed Project Submittal Forms by August 30, 2013.

The Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee will review, rank and recommend project submissions to the County Commission at one or more noticed, public meetings. The Monroe County BOCC will make final project awards. All project awards are subject to the availability and amount of local RESTORE Act dollars directed to Monroe County. The amount and time frame for this funding are not yet known.

For additional information, please refer to the RESTORE Act webpage on the Monroe County website <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov> or contact Lisa Tennyson, Legislative Affairs Director, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West, Room 2-210, Florida 33040; 305-292-4444; tennyson-lisa@monroecou ty-fl.gov.



Press Release

Monroe County Administrator's Office
1100 Simonton Street, Suite 2-205
Key West, FL 33040
305-292-4441

November 22, 2013

NOTICE OF RESTORE ACT PROJECT FUNDING AVAILABILITY

Application Cycle Re-Opened

Monroe County will receive funding under the RESTORE Act, when it becomes available, and has opened its project solicitation process. RESTORE Act funding will derive from civil fines or penalties paid by BP under the Clean Water Act. As required by RESTORE Act law, projects eligible for funding must meet one or more of the following uses:

- Restoration and protection of natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources
- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring
- Workforce development and job creation
- Improvements to state parks in coastal areas affected by Deep Water Horizon spill
- Infrastructure projects benefitting economy or ecological resources, including ports
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure
- Planning assistance
- Promotion of tourism, including recreational fishing
- Promotion of consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast region

Project Submittal Forms are available on the Monroe County RESTORE Act webpage or by email request (tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov or cyr-connie@monroecounty-fl.gov); or, for a hard copy, by visiting the County Administrator's Offices at the Historic Gato Building in Key West and at the Key Largo Government Center, or the Growth Management Office in the Marathon Government Center.

To be considered for funding, projects must meet one or more of the above uses and submit completed Project Submittal Forms by December 20, 2013 at 3PM.

If your organization is among those that previously submitted an application, you have the opportunity to re-submit an application.

The Monroe County RESTORE Act Local Advisory Committee will review, rank and recommend project submissions to the County Commission at one or more noticed, public meetings. The Monroe County BOCC will make final project awards. All project awards are subject to the availability and amount of local RESTORE Act dollars directed to Monroe County. The amount and time frame for this funding are not yet known.

For additional information, please refer to the RESTORE Act webpage on the Monroe County website <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov> or contact Lisa Tennyson, Legislative Affairs Director, 1100 Simonton Street, Key West, Room 2-210, Florida 33040; 305-292-4444; tennyson-lisa@monroecounty-fl.gov.

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Monroe County RESTORE Act Webpage: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=432>

Monroe County Canal Restoration Webpage: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx?NID=598>

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ H.R. 4348, Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F, Section 311(t) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
- ² Department of Treasury Regulations for the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, 31 C.F.R. Part 34, RIN 1505-AC44, 79 FR 48039 (August 15, 2014).
- ³ Department of the Treasury, RESTORE Act Direct Component Guidance and Application to Receive Federal Financial Assistance (August 2014), available at: http://www.treasury.gov/services/restore-act/Documents/Direct%20Component%20Guidance_August%202014.pdf.
- ⁴ "As a condition of receiving amounts from the Trust Fund, a Gulf Coast State ...shall ... (iv) develop and submit a multiyear implementation plan for the use of such amounts, which may include milestones, projected completion of each activity, and a mechanism to evaluate the success of each activity in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill." 33 U.S.C. § 1321(t)(1)(E)(iv) (2012).
- ⁵ Eligible activities in the gulf coast region:
 - (I) Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
 - (II) Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources.
 - (III) Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
 - (IV) Workforce development and job creation.
 - (V) Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
 - (VI) Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
 - (VII) Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
 - (VIII) Planning assistance.
 - (IX) Administrative costs of complying with this subsection.
 - (X) Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing.
 - (XI) Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region." 33 U.S.C. §1321(t)(1)(B) (2012)
- ⁶ Resolution 094-2013 Creating Local RESTORE Act Advisory Committee: <http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5347>
- ⁷ Resolution 129-2013 Addressing Voting Conflicts for Local RESTORE Act Advisory Committee <http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/6363>
- ⁸ Official Monroe County Website Main Page Link: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/index.aspx>
RESTORE Act Page Link: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/Index.aspx?NID=432>
- ⁹ With regard to the project entitled "Canal Water Quality Restoration In Monroe County for Canals Across All Entities in Monroe County," the term "all entities" refers to the five municipalities within Monroe County (differentiated from those portions of the County that are unincorporated, ie, not part of one of these municipalities), as all are part of the County-Wide Canal Management Master Plan. The individual entities are at various stages in their respective canal project planning. The Board of County Commissioners approved funding for one entity, Islamorada, because Islamorada is furthest along in its project planning, and had canal restoration projects most ready to proceed. Readiness to proceed (ie, the ability to utilize the funding and implement the project timely) was one of the evaluation criteria.
- ¹⁰ M.C.C. Sec. 1-2. - Rules of construction and definitions. Computation of time. In computing any period of time, the day of the act, event or default from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included. The last day of the period so computed shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday or legal holiday, in which event the period shall run until the end of the next day that is neither a Saturday, Sunday nor legal holiday. When the period of time prescribed or allowed is less than seven days, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays shall be excluded in the computation.
- ¹¹ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/pages/wqpp.html
- ¹² http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/pages/wqmp.html
- ¹³ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/pages/cremp.html

¹⁴ <http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5327>

¹⁵ <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5316>

¹⁶ <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/wqssp/ofwfs.htm>

¹⁷ <http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5319>

¹⁸ <http://fl-monroecounty.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5301>

¹⁹ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/products/wqpp/FKNMS%20Biennial%20Report%20201309.pdf

²⁰ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/products/wqpp/FKNMS%20Biennial%20Report%20201309.pdf

²¹ http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/corals/coral07_importance.html

²² <http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/groups/benthic-ecology/research-projects/coral-nursery/>

²³ <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/scisummaries/wqmonitoring.pdf>

²⁴ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/products/wqpp/Archive/1997_WQPP_Quality_Action_Plan.PDF

²⁵ http://ocean.floridamarine.org/FKNMS_WQPP/products/wqpp/FKNMS%20Biennial%20Report%20201309.pdf

²⁶ Link to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5301>

²⁷ More detailed descriptions of each technology:

- **Swinging Weed Gates:** Swinging weed gates are mechanical devices that physically block seaweed from passing through the device. The weed gates are designed to prevent floating, wind-driven flotsam from entering and accumulating in man-made canals where it typically sinks and fouls with water. Weed gates consist of a floating arm that contains hanging flaps often made of rubber. The gates are placed at a canal mouth to prevent floating seaweed from entering the canal. The gate swings open when applied with slight pressure to allow access for boat traffic.
- **Air Curtains:** These are aeration devices that consist of perforated piping connected to a blower. They are typically installed at the mouth of a canal. The curtains consist of perforated PVC pipe, a blower, control panel, electric, and protective pump housing. The PVC pipe is installed on the canal bottom across the entire canal mouth and anchored in place. The pipe is connected to a blower located on the adjacent shore. Blower selection strongly influences the capital and operation and maintenance costs of the system.
- **Pumping:** Pumps can be installed to promote water circulation within a canal. Water can be pumped from a 'dead end' canal to another adjacent canal or mangrove creek to increase turnover of water at the end of a canal system. Pump installation must be designed to prevent adverse secondary effects such as bottom scouring or impact to adjacent waters. Circulation studies by a qualified coastal engineer would be needed to provide an effective design.

Culvert Installation: Culverts could be installed between canals or between canals and thin land strips to improve flushing within them in a similar fashion to flushing channels. Based on canal-specific hydrology, larger or smaller diameter culverts may be more applicable. Culverts would still need an energy source to induce flushing such as a channel at the outfall mouth. Like channels, culverts are even more prone to clogging, and require maintenance. And residents in Key Largo have complained that culverts serve as ideal habitats for the American crocodile so this technology may have some wildlife management issues. Circulation studies by a qualified coastal engineer would be needed here as well.

Canal Backfilling: Canal backfilling could be performed in order to decrease the depth of a canal to promote flushing and reduce/eliminate stratification. Filling in of abrupt changes in depth or sink areas would assist in increasing circulation. Backfilling attempts to mimic the hydrology of a mangrove creek, with the shallowest depth at the landward end of the canal, and greatest depth at the mouth of the canal. Flushing is typically hindered by the fact that both the canal sill and the waters surrounding the Keys are typically shallower than the canal bottom. This difference in depth hinders mixing in the lower depths of the canals. This option would work best in canals where there was sufficient energy, either from tidal fluctuations or wind force, to promote flushing. Naturally there may be some restrictions to the size of boats that can utilize filled canals. Canal backfilling can be performed in order to

decrease the depth of a canal to promote flushing and reduce/eliminate stratification. This option works best in canals where there is sufficient energy, either from tidal fluctuations or wind force, to promote flushing.

- **Circulation Devices:** Aeration can be used in smaller canals to facilitate circulation. The design of aeration systems must be aimed at moving water out of the canal, not merely vertical mixing of the water column. Circulation improvement needs to be coupled with reducing the pollution loading within the canal. Circulation devices are specialized aeration devices that could be installed to increase both the transfer of oxygen to the water as well as the horizontal movement of water out of the canal. Circulation devices can help prevent hypoxic/anoxic conditions to a limited extent and promote aerobic processing of nutrients.
- **Nutrient Removal:** Nutrient removal from canal waters is a developing technology. In brief, it consists of pumping the water to a structure that supports the growth of algae that utilize nutrients from the water. Special macroalgae species have been used effectively in small-scale nutrient stripping experiments in the Keys. Water is circulated through shallow troughs exposed to sunlight with small starter colonies of algae. Often airstones are used to vigorously circulate the water and stimulate nutrient uptake by the algae. The algae must be periodically harvested (and possibly sold). The water is recycled back to the canal after treatment with lowered nutrient content. In situ systems such as Aquamats are also being employed. This technology would likely work best on small canals with high inorganic nutrient loading.

²⁸ Hart, Ron, and John H. Kiefer, 2006. Lake Griffin Canal Dredging: A Project Designed to Mitigate the Navigational Impacts Resulting from Enhanced Water Level Fluctuations. Proceedings of the Florida Lake Management Society 2006 Annual Symposium.

²⁹ <http://floridaswater.com/EGRET/>

³⁰ http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/press_releases/13-120pr.shtml#.VYxMjdrD-M8

³¹ http://bethanybeachnews.com/content/south_bethany_canals_improve_tides

³² As per Section 1321(t)(1)(B)(i) of the RESTORE Act, Public Law 112-141, Subtitle F.

³³ Link to the Monroe County Canal Management Master Plan: <http://www.monroecounty-fl.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5301>

³⁴ Towards Sustainable Multispecies Fisheries in the Florida, USA, Coral Reef Ecosystem, Bulletin of Marine Science, 2005; Ault, Jerald, et al.