

RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ANNOTATED MINUTES

FEBUARY 6, 2020

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

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

6:00 P.M.

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

Committee Members:

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Jessica Rodriguez, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Rodriguez called the roll. All members were present with the exception of Dr. Richardson who was absent. Commissioner Starkey arrived to the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Albert Hiller, Mr. Mark Rediger, Mr. Frank Wolf, and Mr. Ken Dabbs spoke regarding the importance of the Signal Cove and Leisure Beach project; high costs for the projects but the need for them to be done; connection to the Hudson channel; possible funding from the BP oil spill and differing the cost project; restrictions around the high tide times; the Aquatic Bill discussed at the Board meeting held on February 4, 2020; having plans that work; and acknowledging the Signal Cove group present at the meeting.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Minutes from September 26, 2016 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

The Committee approved the minutes for the September 26, 2016 RESTORE meeting with Commissioner Starkey absent from the vote.

Minutes from August 16, 2018 RESTORE Meeting for Approval

The Committee approved the minutes for the August 16, 2018 RESTORE meeting with Commissioner Starkey absent from the vote.

Gulf Harbors/Hudson Channel Dredging Discussion

Chairman Mariano spoke regarding the public comment made on the Aquatic Bill and affecting Leisure Beach, initial presentations for Leisure Beach and Signal Cove, discussions on the Aquatic Preserve with Representative Dr. Ralph Massullo, that the Bill would affect west of U.S. Highway 19 and all its channels, redeveloping the coast and dredging, and thanked The Honorable Mayor Scott Tremblay for coming out to the meeting.

Mr. George Thomas, Public Works Project Manager, reviewed the item using a PowerPoint presentation. He spoke regarding the location map of dredging areas and main channels, the Sea Pines/Hudson/Stake Creek Channels, the West Port and Gulf Harbors Channels, the Gulf Harbors Channel Preliminary Engineering Study, the Hudson Channel Preliminary Engineering Study, the cost estimate for Gulf Harbors and Hudson Channel Tasks, details regarding the cost estimate and mitigation, the Gulf

Harbors and Hudson Channel Project Schedule that was approved by BCC on October 2019, a survey done during the summer, the need for good cost estimates and completing the project by September 2020, and the Hudson Channel Extension/ Signal Cove and Leisure Beach Canal Areas of Concern.

Discussion was held regarding Bear Creek being properly being taken care of; Bear Creek being dredged; the Redneck Island improvement area; creeks not getting properly flushed; the seagrass and fisheries in the area being looked at; the time it would take to do dredging; and once the project was completed being turned into BID form.

Mr. Mark Rose spoke regarding the map not addressing the areas discussed at the meeting and being an area of concern near the Gulf.

COMMISSIONER STARKEY ARRIVED TO THE MEETING AT 6:34 P.M.

Discussion was held regarding consideration for widening the Hudson channel; the dredging being more cost effective if it was 100 feet; the Hudson Channel being in need of help; no changes to Gulf Harbors from what had already been approved; information given to the permitting agency; the costs of the project; the hash lines where more detail surveys would be done; reduction of flooding; and stormwater funding to cut down costs.

Mr. Mark Rose spoke regarding concerns with the rerouting of untreated storm water, future plans to treat the storm water, an assessment on water front properties improving the water maintenance, and maintenance dredging.

Discussion was held regarding maintenance; funding issues and bonds; seagrass mitigation; and the original Hudson Channel width.

Mr. Dick Jerman spoke regarding the width between the Signal Cove Channel and the Hudson Channel, Signal Cove residents giving funds to re-dredge in the past, and having safe boating on the waterways.

The item was for Information only. No action was required.

RESTORE Act Advisory Committee 2020 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Rose submitted a document to be received and filed.

The Committee approved to receive and file a document submitted by Mr. Rose.

Mr. Rose spoke in-depth regarding a request to ask the County Commissioners to re-open Durney Key as a dredge disposal site, and possibly designating dredge disposal

sites. He spoke regarding the projects being cost effective for the County, environment improvement, subsea structures lost in the last hurricane and being impacted negatively, requesting for additional funds, and re-engaging Dewberry for coastal dredging operations.

Discussion was held regarding making recommendations in the future; working on future grants; saving Hudson Beach and Robert K Reese Memorial Park; solutions to fix the beaches; discussion with Keith Wiley from Parks and Recreation; and adding a dock at some point.

Mr. Curtis Franklin, Parks and Recreation, spoke regarding looking into grants, discouraging development near the Beach due to flooding issues, the Committee being there to look at projects, and trying to bring some of Mr. Allen's ideas forward.

Discussion was held regarding The Coastal Barrier Resource Act; accolades for Mr. Curtis Franklin on getting Pasco County allocated funds first; the Aquatic Bill; disposal sites and sandbars; coastal barrier islands; protector barrier islands, protection of the coast line, and protection of the sea grass; the project being cost effective; and the Committee reviewing House Bill 1061.

Ms. Lynch spoke regarding the Board of County Commissioners reinstating the Restore Act Committee another 15 years and how the Committee would like to conduct their meetings.

Discussion was held regarding the type of decisions that needed to be made for the year; dredging being the biggest project for the year; previous meetings and policy updates; the Pot 2 updates from the FDEP with 4 proposal programs; having meetings as needed; a refresher presentation for the new members in a future meeting; the Committee having a future meeting to focus mainly on Pot 2; setting up the meetings on a quarterly basis and adding meetings as needed; having used Pot 1 monies; the Key Vistas dredge project and being at the Department of Treasury for review; Staff sending agendas to the Committee as needed; the cost of Restore Act money; and waiting for the bid to be approved by the Board of County Commissioners before moving forward.

There was no further public comment.

Chairman Mariano thanked the Committee and Staff.

ADJOURN

The Committee adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2020



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

Prepared by:

J. Rodriguez

Jessica Rodriguez, Records Clerk III
Board Records Division