

**RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE, PASCO COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ANNOTATED MINUTES**

**OCTOBER 6, 2015**

**PREPARED IN THE OFFICE OF  
PAULA S. O'NEIL, 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  
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. Randy Stovall, College/University Representative - **ABSENT**  
David Sumpter, Science or Fisheries Representative  
Jeffrey Lowe, Job Creation Industry Representative  
John Hagen, Pasco Economic Development Council Rep - **ABSENT**.  
Kristin Tonkin, Tourism Representative  
Bob Robertson, Citizen Representative  
Bruce Mills, West Pasco Chamber of Commerce Rep

---

**CALL TO ORDER**

Acting-Chairman Armstrong called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**INVOCATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Katie McCormick, Deputy Clerk, gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **ROLL CALL**

All members were present except Dr. Stovall and Mr. Hagen. Chairman Mariano arrived to the meeting at 6:16 p.m. and Commissioner Starkey arrived at 6:20 p.m.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

There was none.

## **TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **Introduction of new committee member – Mr. David Sumpter**

Mr. Curtis Franklin, RESTORE Act Program Coordinator, introduced Mr. David Sumpter and described his background and experience. He welcomed him to the RESTORE Advisory Committee.

Mr. Sumpter said he appreciated the opportunity to serve on the RESTORE Committee.

Mr. Jeffrey Steinsnyder, County Attorney, was aware Mr. Sumpter had served on other boards and was familiar with the Sunshine Law but if Mr. Sumpter had any questions regarding the Sunshine Law, he could contact him.

### **Minutes Approval from the May 7, 2015 RESTORE Act Advisory Committee Meeting**

Acting-Chairman Armstrong requested a motion to approve the May 7, 2015 minutes.

**MOVED TO APPROVE** the minutes; motion carried with Commissioner Starkey and Chairman Mariano absent from the vote.

Acting-Chairman Armstrong called on the motion; the vote was unanimous and the motion carried with Chairman Mariano absent from the vote.

Acting-Chairman Armstrong passed the gavel to Chairman Mariano upon his arrival.

## **Update on RESTORE, BP, MYIP**

Mr. Franklin used a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on the tentative settlement agreements.

- Economic Claims Lawsuit – Florida would receive \$2 billion.
- Clean Water Act Fines totaled \$5.5 billion. Pasco County would receive approximately \$1 million for every \$1 billion paid out over a period of 15 years.
- Natural Resource Damages – \$680 million would be received by Florida. Approximately 25% of those funds may be spent outside the 8 disproportionately affected counties. The funds would be controlled by Triumph Organization and there were no firm plans for disbursement yet.
- Local Claims – BP paid \$1 billion to settle local government claims. Pasco's share was under the control of the Board of County Commissioners.

These tentative agreements still needed to be approved by the government, the Federal Court System, and the states. He spoke further on funds that may be available in Pasco County and when they would be disbursed. He spoke of the economic damages to Pasco County. He was still attending the Gulf Coast Consortium meetings and would keep the Committee updated.

Discussion was held regarding funds; types of projects; project grants; timing of the projects; economic repairs; environmental improvements; and other possible projects to be submitted. He noted that Pasco County was the first to have their MYIP approved and the first to receive any funds. In three years, RESTORE had moved from concepts to actual funds.

## **Save Our Seahorses Presentation**

Ms. Diane McMahon, Aquatic Visions Inc., spoke regarding her efforts to be proactive in order to save the Hippocampus Erectus Seahorse. She gave a history of her efforts and what she hoped to accomplish. The project was expected to last 5-10 years and her request was for \$48,500.00 to remodel her facility, collect data, breed, and return the Seahorses to their natural habitat.

Discussion followed regarding the breeding success rate; other facilities that may be involved; and other facets of the project including marketing and education. The Board suggested Ms. McMahon focus on data; comparisons; and the idea of a joint project with other counties in the area.

Mr. Franklin said he did not have the next meeting scheduled; he would contact the Committee when there was further information regarding funding.

Chairman Mariano noted that the Committee was still interested in further projects, not only local but also regional.

**ADJOURN**

The Committee adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

RESTORE ACT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
OCTOBER 6, 2015

(SEAL)

*Office of Paula S. O'Neil, Clerk & Comptroller*

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Katie McCormick, Records Clerk II  
Board Records Department