



Recap of the TBRPC Council Meeting

Talking points to assist Board Members with their reports on Council activities.

Annual Meeting Date: February 04, 2013

❖ **Restore Act Funding for Environmental and Economic Restoration of the Gulf Coast**

Council members received a presentation on the Federal RESTORE Act – legislation passed to direct the administrative and civil penalties from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill to Gulf of Mexico environmental and economic recovery and restoration. The three major components of the fund were explained. There are at least two efforts underway that include this region and are aimed at identifying appropriate local and regional projects to meet the criteria for receiving a portion of those funds. One is the Florida Gulf Consortium of the 23 coastal counties operating under the Florida Association of Counties. An overview of the RESTORE Act plan was provided as well as an explanation of what the three National Estuary Programs in southwest Florida are collaborating on in order to identify appropriate environmental restoration projects. An example was given which are the proposed Regional Reclaimed Water System Interconnection and Ecosystem Restoration project designed to restore natural systems in Pasco County. The Council formed an Ad-Hoc Committee to assist our cities and counties in the process of identifying and submitting projects for funding within the State and the Oil Spill Impact Restoration Allocation portions of the RESTORE Act. The Council has several tools and resources that would be of benefit in this process, and given the rather limited list of activities which are eligible for funding, a regional economic and/or environmental benefits analysis will be important in obtaining funding.

❖ **Tampa Bay Regional Collaboration Committee (TBRCC) Report**

Staff provided a presentation on the results of the work of the TBRCC. The Committee examined ways to promote collaborative efforts on various topics. The topics included: Airports, Amateur Sports, Area Branding, and Health Insurance. The report was adopted by the Council.

❖ **TBRPC 21st Annual Future of the Region Awards**

The 21st Annual Future of the Region Awards luncheon will take place on Monday, March 25, 2013 at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park hotel. Registration is now available online at www.tbrpc.org.

❖ **Florida Department of Environmental Protection District Reorganization and Resources for Local Governments**

An overview of the District was provided and opportunities to better assist local municipalities with permitting and compliance assistance were discussed.

All presentations, pertinent links and detailed minutes of the meeting can be found on the Council website at www.tbrpc.org. 727.570.5151