



Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus 2015 Annual Meeting

October 8-9, 2015—Hosted by Walton County, Florida

Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort • Camelia 1 & 2 • 9300 Emerald Coast Parkway • Miramar Beach, Fla. 32550

Welcome to the NACo's 2015 Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus Annual Meeting! The purpose of the Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus is to promote a clearer understanding of mutual problems of Gulf Coast counties and parishes and their citizens; to establish a single source of information concerning county and parish governments in the Gulf region; and to advocate on behalf of those residing in Gulf counties and parishes before federal and state governments and other county officials.

Caucus membership is open to all NACo county and parish government officials from Texas, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida.

DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

6:00 pm **Welcome Reception for County and Parish Government Officials**
Sponsored by Waste Management
Azalea Foyer, Baytowne Conference Center at Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30 am — 9:00 am **Welcome, Introductions and Overview of the Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus**

- **Hon. Grover Robinson**, Chair, Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus;
Commissioner, Escambia County, Fla.

9:00 am — 9:45 am **What's Next for RESTORE Act Funding?**
Over five years ago, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill (also referred to as the BP oil spill) was the largest marine oil spill the U.S. ever experienced. The Deepwater Horizon Oil spewed approximately 3.19 million barrels of oil into the Gulf and had a devastating impact on citizens, businesses and state and local governments. On July 6, 2012, President Obama signed the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act (RESTORE Act; Subtitle F of Public Law 112-141) into law which established the Gulf Coast Restoration Fund in the U.S. Treasury Department. Under the law, 80 percent of the fines collected from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill are available for projects, programs and activities in the Gulf Coast region.

On July 2, BP agreed to pay \$18.7 billion to settle a lawsuit over the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Under the RESTORE Act, Treasury will oversee two

programs that are funded by this money—the Direct Component and the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program—which helps local governments.

- **Ted Kowalsky**, Director, Office of Grants and Asset Management, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C. *(invited)*
- **Laurie McGilvray**, Program Director, Office of Gulf Coast Restoration, U.S. Department of the Treasury *(invited)*

9:45 am — 10:15 am RESTORE Act Implementation Status in the States

Representatives from each of the five Gulf Coast counties and parishes states will give an update on the status of RESTORE Act implementation within their state.

- **Florida**
- **Louisiana**
- **Alabama**
- **Mississippi**
- **Texas**

10:15 am—10:30 am Break

10:30 am—11:00 am Oil Spill Response Protocol in Light of Deepwater Horizon

The explosion and subsequent oil spill of the Deepwater Horizon oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010 set in motion a series of federal response actions that have been well documented. Unlike a natural or other manmade disaster where local response decisions are made autonomously and supported by state and federal assistance, the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill was different, with the federal government taking the lead and relegating local governments to the side-lines on issues important to their communities. In the aftermath, local governments called for the federal agencies to change the response and recovery process.

- **Bryan Koon**—Emergency Management Director, State of Florida *(invited)*

11:00 am—11:30 am More than Just Data—Data, Tools and Training for Coastal Communities

While coastal counties and parishes make up only 17 percent of the U.S. land area, as of 2011, 45 percent of our national's gross domestic product (GDP) was generated in these communities. Coastal counties require special natural disaster and ecosystem management considerations. Additionally, these areas face unique challenges such as population booms, extreme weather events and sea level rise.

One of NACo's partner's, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is working to compile the information that you need to assess how to build your community's resiliency, expand your staff's knowledge and capacity, facilitate effective decision-making, while achieving local natural resource goals.

- **Todd Davison**, Gulf Region, NOAA Office for Coastal Management

11:30 am—12:00 pm Update on the Federal Flood Risk Management Standards Executive Order

On January 30, 2015, President Obama released Executive Order 13690 on Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), which amends a 1977 Executive Order 11988 on floodplains. EO 13690 requires federal agencies to consider current and future risks when federal agency dollars are used to build or rebuild floodplains. Numerous questions have arisen regarding the proposal including—if a county proposes a public works project and only receive a portion of its funding from federal funds, does the FRRMS apply to the entire project and will agencies reach out to local governments on implementation?

- **TBD**

12:00 pm—1:00 pm	Lunch Provided for County and Parish Government Officials Room: Jasmine
1:15 pm—2:15 pm	Update and Roundtable Discussion on NFIP Reauthorization Issues <i>In 1968, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was created to limit the damage and financial impacts of floods. However, due to significant losses in 2005 and 2012 from catastrophic hurricanes, the program is in financial jeopardy. In 2017, the NFIP program is up for reauthorization and faces numerous challenges from improving flood risk assessments, strengthening the NFIP insurance program, addressing affordability issues and how to balance economic growth in flood-prone areas.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honorable Heather Carruthers, Commissioner, Monroe County, Florida • Buddy Boe, Chief Administrative Officer, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana
2:15 pm—3:15 pm	Overview of Opportunities and Challenges for Gulf Coast Counties and Parishes <i>The GSCPC will engage in a roundtable discussion of the other issues of interest beyond the RESTORE Act and how the caucus can be more strategic moving forward.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Honorable Grover Robinson, Chair, Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus; Commissioner, Escambia County, Fla.
3:15 pm—3:30 pm	Review of Bylaws <i>The caucus will review and revise the GSCPC bylaws for inaccuracies and updates.</i>
3:30 pm—3:45 pm	Public Comment Period <i>(Each speaker is limited to two minutes)</i>
3:45 pm—4:00 pm	Wrap-up
4:00 pm	Adjourn

