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July 21, 2014
Volume 2, Issue 6

Save the Date: Consortium Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the next consortium meeting:

Thursday, August 7, 2014
9:30 am - 12:00 noon Central
Hilton Pensacola Beach
12 Via de Luna
Pensacola Beach, FL 32561
Reservations: (866) 916-2999

FAC has secured a discounted room rate for a standard room at \$150/night plus applicable taxes. A 1-night room deposit via personal check or major

Important Dates

Gulf Consortium Meeting
Thursday, August 7th
9:30am-12:00noon CST
Hilton Pensacola Beach
12 Via de Luna
Pensacola Beach, FL
32561

Gulf Consortium Meeting
Wednesday, September
17th 9:30am-12:00noon
CST
Walton County - in
conjunction with FAC Policy
Conference - Place TBD

Gulf Consortium Meeting

credit card is required.

Future meeting dates can be found at
www.FACRestore.com.

State Plan: Update on the Invitation to Negotiate

Through the Consortium's agreement with the Leon County Purchasing Department an Invitation to Negotiate was posted in June The first meeting of the Evaluation Team for the Gulf Consortium's procurement of a State Expenditure Plan (SEP) consultant was held Monday, July 21 in Tallahassee. Mr. Phil Coram, P.E., Administrator, Florida Coastal Office, Florida Department of Environmental Protection; Mr. Ed Gardner, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative; Mr. Roman Gastesi, County Administrator, Monroe County; and Ms. Sheree Keeler, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Procurement and Grants & RESTORE Act Coordinator, Wakulla County attended the meeting in person. Dr. Karl Havens, Director, Florida Sea Grant College Program & Professor, UF/IFAS Fisheries & Aquatic Sciences, University of Florida attended by phone. . Six proposals were received for consideration by the Evaluation Team:

- Arcadis USA
- Ecology & Environment
- Environmental Sciences Associates
- Langton Associates
- Matrix Design Group
- MWH Americas

Mr. Roman Gastesi was elected as Chair of the

**Wednesday, December
3rd 9:30am-12:00noon EST**
St. John's County - in
conjunction with FAC
Legislative Conference -
Place TBD

Evaluation Team. During the meeting the Evaluation Team reviewed and discussed the proposals, ultimately deciding to recommend a short list to the Consortium Executive Committee. The recommended short list is: (alphabetical)

- Arcadis USA
- Ecology & Environment
- Environmental Science Associates
- MWH Americas

The Consortium Executive Committee must approve the actions taken by the Evaluation Team and the short list before moving forward with requests for Best and Final Offers.

The team also discussed the format for presentations which will be scheduled once the Executive Committee approves the short list. At the conclusion of the presentations, the team will draft a refined scope of services for approval by the Gulf Consortium. Upon approval of the refined scope of services, a request for Best and Final Offers will be sent out. The goal is to make the final decision on a consultant at the December Consortium meeting.

Gulf Consortium Chairman Grover Robinson invited to testify in Senate Committee

Commissioner Grover Robinson, Escambia County Commissioner and Chair of the Gulf Consortium has been invited to testify by Florida Senator Bill Nelson to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. His testimony will include an update on the Gulf Consortium, implementation of the RESTORE Act, and most importantly stress the need

for funding to move forward with the creation and implementation of the state plan as required in the RESTORE Act. The Committee is scheduled to meet on July 29th.

Meeting of the Five Gulf States

Last week, during the National Association of Counties Annual Conference, a meeting was held among members of the five Gulf States. The Gulf States Caucus was formed following the DeepWater Horizon Oil Spill yet has taken up other issues such as the National Flood Insurance Program, that impact the coastlines of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

During the meeting each state gave an update on their state's progress on the implementation of the RESTORE Act which included summaries on NRDA and discussion regarding the ongoing lack of funds available from the RESTORE Act.

The meeting also discussed the importance of representation on the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee. An update was also given on the recent workshop the EPA held in Atlanta: "Protecting America's Waters Workshop". The workshop was convened to get input on the proposed rule regarding water quality and to assist the Committee in providing recommendations to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy regarding the impact on local governments.

NACo Approves Five Gulf States Regional Coalition

During the National Association of Counties Board of

Directors meeting a resolution was proposed and passed making the Five Gulf States Coalition an official regional coalition of NACo. While the full impact of this decision remains unknown, it is an important step in securing NACo staff support and policy positions to advance the objectives of the Group in Washington.

Save the Date: Five Gulf States Regional Coalition Meeting

SAVE THE DATE: Next Five Gulf States Meeting

During the meeting of the five Gulf States, the next meeting was scheduled for October 15, 2014 in Biloxi, MS. The meeting will be held at the Beau Rivage Resort. Details of the meeting are still being finalized and will be distributed to the coalition once arrangements have been made.

Consortium Staff meet with Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Hershel Vineyard

In June, FAC Executive Director Chris Holley and Consortium Staff Member Doug Darling met with DEP Secretary Hershel Vineyard along with Florida Council Representative Mimi Drew and Deputy Chief of Staff Carla Gaskin. The majority of the meeting focused on the ongoing challenges facing the Consortium without funding from the Council to generate a State Expenditure Plan. The group also discussed possible strategies for the implementation of a state plan once developed. A commitment was made to work together and continue dialogue so that the best outcome for our recovering counties could be found.

PNJ: 1,450 pounds of oil has been removed from Fort Pickens

Pensacola News Journal

Kimberly Blair, Staff writer 10:34 a.m. CDT June 25, 2014

Lightning on Tuesday delayed cleanup of the large tar mat at the National Seashore's Fort Pickens beach.

Workers were able to remove another 69 pounds of the weathered tar, bringing the total to more than 1,450 pounds removed so far, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Natalie Murphy, who is in charge of the response in the coastal areas of the Northern Gulf of Mexico.

That exceeds the amount of tar removed -1,400 pounds-from a similar mat in the same proximity of the seashore in March.

"We will be out again today to continue working toward our shared goal of removing this pollution from the environment and holding BP accountable," Murphy said.

The tar mat was discovered June 20 by a Florida Department of Environmental Protection monitor who routinely surveys local beaches for lingering BP oil.

The oil has been submerged in the surf zone since washing in from 2010's Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster. It contains sand, shell and other organic debris along with oil.

Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or would like more information on the Gulf Consortium please visit our website at www.FACRestore.com, or contact the Consortium's Director Doug Darling at ddarling@fl-counties.com or (850) 922-4300.

Gulf Consortium | 850-922-4300 | ddarling@fl-counties.com | <http://www.FACRestore.com>
c/o Florida Association of Counties
100 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301

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