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February 6, 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 2

### **Gulf Consortium Chairman Meets with Governor Scott**

Yesterday, Escambia County Commissioner and Gulf Consortium Chairman Grover Robinson met with Governor Rick Scott. The Florida Association of Counties' Executive Committee spent time with the Governor discussing the state's recovering economy and FAC's 2014 policy priorities. As chair of the Consortium, Commissioner Robinson emphasized the importance of working together across local, state and federal programs to ensure the greatest benefits for the Gulf of Mexico. He thanked the Governor for the work of Department of Environmental Secretary Herschel Vinyard and Mimi Drew, Florida's appointee to the federal Council and for their coordination with the Gulf Consortium. Commissioner Robinson also pressed the Governor for appointments to the Consortium as the board begins to undertake the important work of developing the State Expenditure Plan.

### **At-Large Executive Committee Member Nomination Deadline February 14**

Consortium Directors desiring to be designated as members of the Executive Committee must inform Doug Darling ([ddarling@fl-counties.com](mailto:ddarling@fl-counties.com)) or Chris Holley ([cholley@fl-counties.com](mailto:cholley@fl-counties.com)) in writing by February 14<sup>th</sup>. The three elected officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer) will designate two additional Directors to serve on the Executive Committee at the March 10<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee meeting. The current At-Large members are Commissioner Sara Comander (Walton) and Mayor George Neugent (Monroe).

### **Officers Re-Elected**

### **Important Dates**

**March 26, 2014**  
Gulf Consortium Meeting  
Leon County, FL

At the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously re-elected the incumbent officers to serve another one year term. Commissioner Grover Robinson (Escambia) was re-elected Chairman, Commissioner Susan Latvala (Pinellas) was re-elected Vice-Chairman, and Commissioner Warren Yeager (Gulf) was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. Congratulations to all!

### **Procurement Policy Comment Deadline is February 7**

At the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Directors work-shopped a draft procurement policy and set a February 7<sup>th</sup> deadline for comments. In September, the Board of Directors decided to use the procurement infrastructure of Leon County. In accordance with that direction, the draft State Expenditure Plan procurement policy relies heavily upon the Leon County procurement policy for its structure and content. The Board will consider both the procurement policy and the State Expenditure Plan procurement solicitation document at the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting. Comments on the draft policy can be submitted to interim General Counsel Sarah Bleakley by email ([sbleakley@ngnlaw.com](mailto:sbleakley@ngnlaw.com)). Call her with questions at 850.224.4070. A copy of the draft policy is available on the [Gulf Consortium](#) website.

### **Consortium Receives Update from Council**

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Council) Executive Director, Mr. Justin Ehrenwerth, attended the January 24, 2014 Gulf Consortium meeting in Tallahassee and provided an update on the Council. Mr. Ehrenwerth spoke at length about the start-up activities the Council is undertaking. Notably, the Council is in the same position as the Consortium, that is, funds have not been released to the Council pending final approval of the US Treasury Regulations.

Additionally, Mr. Ehrenwerth outlined the steps needed for the Consortium to receive funding that will be used to develop the Consortium's State Expenditure Plan. Mr. Ehrenwerth stated that after US Treasury Regulations are finalized, the Council must complete policy decisions on formula methodologies for Spill Impact Allocation (Pot #3), promulgate its own rules, and establish a grant infrastructure. When asked about the potential timeline for these activities, Mr. Ehrenwerth projected this calendar year.

Mr. Ehrenwerth was well received and was able to participate in the visioning session immediately after lunch.

For more information or questions, please contact [Doug Darling](#).

### **Consortium Begins to Outline it's Vision**

Ms. Heidi Stiller, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was kind enough to volunteer her time assisting the Consortium with setting out its vision and begin discussions on the role(s) of the Consortium. A spirited discussion took place with Consortium members writing mock newspaper headlines 20 years in the future proclaiming the successful implementation of the RESTORE Act. Headlines will be posted on the [Gulf Consortium](#) website along with snippets of the roles discussion.

For more information or questions, please contact [Doug Darling](#).

### **U.S. Department of Treasury Audit Risk Analysis for Direct Component**

Board of Director's member and Okaloosa County Commissioner Dave Parisot (Okaloosa) presented a summary of a recent conference call initiated by Treasury in preparation for risk audits of the 23 member counties internal controls for the Direct Component (aka "Pot 2). A summary of the call can be found on the [Gulf Consortium website](#).

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