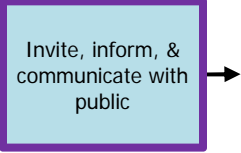
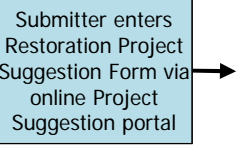
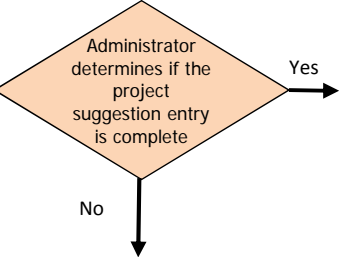
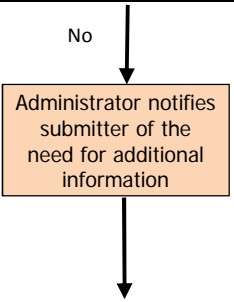
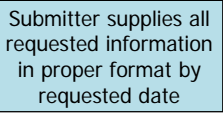
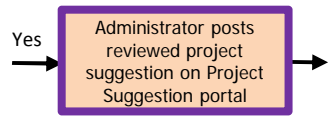



Project Selection Process Framework for State Expenditure Plan (SEP) Development

Step-by-Step Description

(as of September 20, 2017)

	<p>Invite, Inform and Communicate with Public: The State of Alabama’s portal for project suggestions went live in March, 2014, and is housed on the Alabama Coastal Restoration website, www.alabamacoastalrestoration.org. The Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) Executive Director is available to speak to individuals/groups regarding the RESTORE Act and related activities, including the process by which one enters a project. Additionally, other staff with the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (which serves as the Administrative Agent for the AGCRC), are available to answer questions regarding RESTORE Act activities and the project suggestion portal. The public is also encouraged to sign up for email updates on the website. This email distribution list is used to alert the public to public meetings, any deadlines as to project suggestion consideration for inclusion in MIPs and SEPs, and other announcements.</p>
	<p>Submitter enters Restoration Project Suggestion Form via online portal: Individuals/organizations/public entities (Submitter) enter project suggestions via the online portal. The Project Suggestion Form is designed to accommodate submittals for several different potential funding sources, including the AGCRC, the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council (Federal Council), the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF), and the Natural Resource Damages Assessment (NRDA). The portal may also inform decisions as to other funding opportunities.</p>
	<p>Administrator determines if the project suggestion is complete: The Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources serves as the Administrative Agent (Administrator) for the AGCRC. In order to move forward in the evaluation process, a project suggestion must include specific information, including, but not limited to: contact information, project description and location, primary classification, estimated cost, and a budget outline. The Administrator is tasked with reviewing the submittals to ensure they contain the required information and do not contain offensive materials prior to posting.</p>

 <p>No</p> <p>Administrator notifies submitter of the need for additional information</p>	<p>Administrator notifies submitter of the need for additional information: If any required information is missing from the project suggestion, the submitter is contacted and given an opportunity to provide the information before it can be posted for public review and further consideration.</p>
 <p>Submitter supplies all requested information in proper format by requested date</p>	<p>Submitter supplies all requested information in proper format by requested date: If interested in completing the project suggestion, submitter must provide necessary information to have the project posted.</p>
 <p>Yes</p> <p>Administrator posts reviewed project suggestion on Project Suggestion portal</p>	<p>Administrator posts reviewed project suggestion on Project Suggestion portal: Once determined complete, the Administrator will tag the project as “reviewed.” The project suggestion will then be posted online under Project Suggestion Submittals and be available for consideration and review by the public.</p>
 <p>Administrator determines if project suggestion meets RESTORE eligibility criteria</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>	<p>Administrator determines if project suggestion meets RESTORE eligibility criteria: According to the RESTORE Act, to be eligible for funding, one or more of the project activities listed below must be carried out in the Gulf Coast Region: Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region; Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, and natural resources; Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring; Workforce development and job creation; Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure; Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure; Promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast Region, including recreational fishing; Promotion of the consumption of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast Region; and Planning assistance.</p>

<pre> graph TD No --> A[Administrator notifies submitter project suggestion does not meet criteria] A --> Done[/Done/] </pre>	<p>No: If the project suggestion does not address at least one of the criteria above, that project will not be considered for RESTORE Act funding (although the project might be considered for other potential funding sources).</p> <p>Done: Project suggestion does not move forward in the Council's process.</p>
<pre> graph LR Yes --> B[Administrator reviews and denotes those project suggestions meeting focus area(s) for SEP funding] B --> Right[] </pre>	<p>Yes: †Administrator reviews and denotes those project suggestions meeting focus area(s) for SEP funding - Administrator reviews submitter-identified project suggestion classification and the project description to determine and denote eligibility under the AGCRC's SEP focus area(s). (†First round SEP does not have limited focus areas; however, focus areas may be selected by the Council for future SEPs.)</p>
<pre> graph TD C[*Administrator prepares all project suggestions for Council members to review] --> D[] </pre>	<p>Yes: *Administrator organizes and prepares all project suggestions for Council members to review - All project suggestions entered in the Alabama Coastal Restoration portal will be provided to Council members in summary format, and those considered by the Administrator to be eligible under the AGCRC's SEP focus area(s) will be highlighted. (If a member believes an additional project should be highlighted as focus area eligible, member shall immediately email Administrator to discuss.)</p>
<pre> graph TD E[Council members review project suggestions] --> F[] </pre>	<p>Council members review project suggestions: Council members will review project summaries, and for particular projects of interest to a Council member(s), all project suggestion information received by the submitter will be provided by the Administrator.</p>
<pre> graph TD G{Council members recommend RFE to move project suggestion forward} G -- Yes --> H[] G -- No --> I[] </pre>	<p>†† Council members recommend Request for Evaluation (RFE) to move project suggestion forward - To move a project forward, at least four Council members must request an RFE via email to the Administrator. (individual emails, only one project per email)</p>

