

**ALABAMA GULF COAST RECOVERY COUNCIL
FIVE RIVERS~ALABAMA'S DELTA RESOURCE CENTER
TENSAW THEATRE
SPANISH FORT, ALABAMA**

January 25, 2017 - 2:00 p.m. Central Time

A meeting of the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council (AGCRC) was held at the time specified above at the Five Rivers~Alabama's Delta Resource Center, Tensaw Theatre, Spanish Fort, Alabama. Director James K. Lyons, Vice-Chairperson of the Council, presided over the meeting.

ALABAMA COUNCIL (the "MEMBERS"):

- 1) The Governor of the State of Alabama:
Robert Bentley, Governor, Council Chairperson - ABSENT
Franklin Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff, PROXY to Governor - PRESENT
- 2) The Director of the Alabama State Port Authority:
James K. Lyons, Director, Council Vice-Chairperson - PRESENT
- 3) The Chairman of the Baldwin County Commission:
Chris Elliott, Commissioner - PRESENT
- 4) The President of the Mobile County Commission:
Merceria Ludgood, Commissioner - PRESENT
- 5) The Mayor of the City of Bayou La Batre:
Terry Downey, Mayor - PRESENT
- 6) The Mayor of the Town of Dauphin Island:
Jeff Collier, Mayor - PRESENT
- 7) The Mayor of the City of Fairhope:
Karin Wilson, Mayor - PRESENT
- 8) The Mayor of the City of Gulf Shores:
Robert Craft, Mayor - PRESENT
- 9) The Mayor of the City of Mobile:
Sandy Stimpson, Mayor - ABSENT
- 10) The Mayor of the City of Orange Beach:
Tony Kennon, Mayor - PRESENT

AGENDA ITEM #I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you all for being here. I'm Jimmy Lyons, Vice Chair of the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, and this is our public meeting. I want to welcome you all today, and I want to especially welcome some new members to our Council. We have Mayor Terry Downey from Bayou La Batre, we have Commissioner Merceria Ludgood from Mobile County, we have Karin Wilson who is the mayor of the City of Fairhope, and we have Commissioner Chris Elliott from Baldwin County who either rotated by virtue of the election or by their respective county rotations. We want to welcome them to the Council, and we're looking forward to working with all of you and the rest of the members as we continue to move forward. We're going to have a couple of presentations to start off with to sort of bring people up to date on a few items that relate to the activities, not of the Council, but some of the other aspects of the BP settlement that have been going on that the Council was not necessarily active in, but the Department of Conservation has been for the State of Alabama. After we finish with the presentations, we've got, I'm not sure how many, but it's probably enough to go for a good while, sign in cards for people who want to speak. Due to the number of people we have, we want to limit the time that you speak to three minutes. We'll time you...I hate to cut everybody off, but we want everybody who want to speak to have an opportunity to speak. I will call out a name and I'll probably call out the next two behind it, so they can be prepared, so we lose as little time as possible during transition. We have all

the members present with the exception of Mayor Sandy Stimpson who had an unavoidable conflict and could not make it over here, but I'm sure there's someone who will be giving him a report on what the activities are and what happened during the meeting today. I'm going to pass this sign-in sheet around and Robert, at some point after this is over, slide it back down. I'd appreciate it. Our first speaker...first on our agenda is an update on NFWF, NRDA and Federal RESTORE activities. These are activities that have been happening outside of our area but are very important and have brought a lot of money into the State of Alabama and promises to bring more as it goes forward. Patti Powell with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will be giving us a presentation on that.

AGENDA ITEM #II: NFWF, NRDA and FEDERAL RESTORE COUNCIL (GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL) UPDATE

Patti Powell (State Lands Director, Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources): Presentation's a strong word. I swear I'm only going to take five minutes while I've got you here. I think it's important we have so many meetings, sometimes NFWF, sometimes NRDA, sometimes RESTORE related, to take a minute to just orient ourselves which I want to do, but then also want to give you a very, very brief update on some dates I want you to be aware of. Every time you've heard us talk, we've used this slide which basically shows what I call the four different efforts of Deepwater Horizon...I would say BP, but it's bigger than BP – the four efforts – NRDA, NFWF, activities of the Alabama Council as we call it – the Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, and then activities under the RESTORE Act by the Federal level Council – the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council. So, today you're here for the Alabama Council public meeting, but again, I want to remind you of those sources. I also want to take just a second – I'm not going to read through this, this is on the table and you probably picked up a copy on your way in, but again, as a way of sort of context orientation. This chart – and there's no way to get everything on one page, this is too much on one page, but it is what it is, and I think it's helpful – shows each of the different streams of money that on the non-economic damages side that have come in to date. I'm going to start on the Natural Resource Damage Assessment, also NRDA. At the end of the day, between early restoration work and additional restoration work, there's \$296 million that are benefitting or will benefit the State of Alabama for projects that are dedicated to restoring injured natural resources and their services. So, again, that's a total of \$296 million. I'm going to skip the RESTORE Act and jump down for a second to the NFWF, and that's the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund. The NRDA stream of money is for damages under OPA. This NFWF stream is for damages under the Clean Water Act, and these were criminal penalties that were assessed as a result of the responsible parties' actions. The total for Alabama is \$356 million. NFWF's criteria is similar to NRDA, but again, very ecologically-based projects to benefit various resources and habitats in the state. The middle, which I skipped, is the RESTORE Act, and those are funds that flow as a result of the settlement of the civil Clean Water Act complaint. Under the RESTORE Act, as I mentioned, there are certain funds that go to the Federal level Council. Those funds are not reflected on this chart, nor are – you'll see on the double-asterisk at the bottom left hand corner – nor are any of those proceeds that benefit Alabama reflected in this chart, because those remain competitive proceeds. There's more that we'll go after as well as additional dollars we'll go after under NRDA. There's still some competitive money we can get at, and I'm not going to get in the weeds today. But on the RESTORE Act and the streams of money that relate to the Alabama Council's function, you'll see under the RESTORE Act, Bucket 1, Bucket 3, Bucket 5. Today's really about Bucket 1, the Direct Component. The figures you see here for the purposes of this chart are totals. I want to point out that the NRDA funds and the RESTORE Act funds come in over 15 years, so there's only so much you can do at one time, because the money's coming in over 15 years. What the State of Alabama received that the Alabama Council has jurisdiction over is in Bucket 1, 3 and 5, the totals for those equals \$725 million. Now again, let's jump down to the corner and say that Alabama has already had placed, either as a first priority or as a categorized priority funding under the Federal Council Bucket 2 work, approximately \$26 million worth of project work – again, ecological project work – under the purview of the Federal Council. You are not going to see that on this chart, because that money is not percentage-wise or amount-wise fully dedicated

to the State of Alabama. What you see here are the figures in the programs and amounts that are, so you come down and the total is \$1.38 billion. All our numbers are rounded – there’s interest that may begin here and there, but I want to kind of give context to what that is. The Center of Excellence is really research dollars, and anyway, that’s a little bit fast, but an overview. Let me give you a few updates...NRDA, that I mentioned first...the Alabama Trustee Implementation Group (that’s TIG...another acronym). The Alabama TIG recently held public meetings in both Dauphin Island and Gulf Shores to accept public comment on that group’s first post-settlement restoration plan and environmental impact statement. That comment period closes January 30. Written comments online and by mail can be submitted to a website Eliska will show you at the end – it’s where you can get to all this information, but I wanted to remind you of that date because it is coming up quickly. Also, the Alabama TIG has already begun work on its efforts for restoration Plan II. Those of you who are signed up for email updates, which Eliska will mention at the end, will be getting emails announcing all these dates and deadlines. The email you got with a February 3rd deadline for entry of projects and suggestions into our portal relate to what’s called the public scoping effort for that second restoration plan. The Alabama TIG is asking for project suggestions that relate to ecological restoration. That’s what that NRDA plan will be for, so please watch that deadline. NFWF, again as I mentioned, also very habitat, natural resource and ecological-based criteria and eligibility requirements for that effort. Phase IV funding cycle the email for that just went out yesterday or the day before – the deadline for that is February 24th. Again, you’ve got to get your suggestions in for us to have time to look at them before we then have to make some decisions and work with NFWF. Finally, the Federal RESTORE Council, there are no dates of importance there, but at the December 16th meeting the Federal Council had, the public meeting in New Orleans, they did affirmatively vote to adopt an updated Comprehensive Plan. That Comprehensive Plan guides Bucket 2 money that I mentioned in the Federal Council as well as Bucket 3 money. The Federal Council has to approve the Bucket 3 money the Alabama Council wishes to expend. Also, the Federal Council’s very busy setting up a new grant system and the change in administration...some of the federal partners are changing, working on processing grants. In that phase, again, in Alabama has about \$13 or so million already allocated for funding with another 13 or so categorized or tied up. Thank you...I’m done.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you, Patti. Now, Eliska Morgan will talk to you a little bit about the review of the Bucket criteria.

AGENDA ITEM #III AND #IV: REFRESHER ON RESTORE ACT “BUCKETS” AND BUCKET 1 CRITERIA AND REVIEW OF PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS FOR MIP DEVELOPMENT

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Good afternoon. Thank you all for being here today. Probably all of you have seen this chart many times and recognize the fact that we have five buckets under the RESTORE Act. As you know, 100% of the Clean Water Act penalties from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill would have gone into the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund had it not been for the hard work of our Congressional delegation, which passed the RESTORE Act, sending 80% of the penalties to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. This money is then broken up into 5 different buckets. As you can see, Bucket 1 is the Direct Component which is what we’re going to be focusing on today where 35% of the penalties are distributed equally among the Gulf Coast states. Bucket 2, which is the Council Selected Restoration Component, goes to the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council to be distributed gulf-wide. Bucket 3 is the Spill Impact Component which is 30% divided among the Gulf Coast states based on a formula. Alabama will receive 20.4% of this bucket, and projects from this funding will also be determined by this Council. Bucket 4 goes to NOAA...it’s 2.5% plus interest for science and technology programs, and then Bucket 5, of course, it’s the Centers of Excellence Research Grants Program, 2.5% plus interest, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab...their proposal was accepted by this Council, and we are still working on the agreement with the Sea Lab since the settlement has become final, and we know what the additional monies are, we’ve asked them for an updated budget for how they use the additional funds that will be deposited by BP. That’s the

status of that, and we hope it will move forward quickly. So, for Bucket 1, what's the eligible criteria for projects and programs that can be funded? Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystem/environmental projects around the Gulf Coast region, mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources, implementation of marine coastal or comprehensive management plans, including fisheries monitoring. So, that pretty much covers the gamut of ecological and environmental projects. We also have workforce development and job creation, promotion of tourism in the Gulf Coast region, including recreational fishing, promotion of seafood harvested from the Gulf Coast, improvements to our State Parks that were affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, coastal flood protection and related infrastructure, infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure, and planning assistance. So, I have to switch slides here, and I apologize...there was no easy way to do this. We're going to go through the process that was recently released by the Council for project selection for Bucket 1 to develop their Multiyear Implementation Plan. You should have picked up a print out of this flow chart out front. We've broken it out a bit to run through it to explain how the Council will get to an end result of a Multiyear Implementation Plan. The first step in the process is to invite, inform and communicate with the public. We've been doing this over the last three years. We go out and visit with groups, we have a presentation we give, we meet with individuals, anytime someone wants to sit down and talk about the process, then we're happy to visit with them. The submitter enters a project into our Project Suggestion Portal, and at that time, the Administrator determines if the project is complete, meaning it's got a budget outline attached, it's got the necessary information to deem it complete. If it's not complete, then we notify the submitter, and assuming they want to keep this on track, they will submit the information requested, and it goes back up into the queue. Once it has been determined complete, the Administrator posts those projects onto the portal for public viewing. We've been doing this now since March of 2014. Then the Administrator will determine, for this process, if the project suggestion meets RESTORE Act eligibility criteria. If it does not, we will notify the submitter that it does not meet the criteria, and basically, the project is then done for this process. If it does meet the criteria, the Administrator further reviews and denotes those project suggestions that meet the focus area set by this Council for MIP funding. If you'll note, the Council has determined this first round MIP will focus on economic and infrastructure projects including related planning assistance. The Administrator then prepares all project suggestions for Council members to review. This is where we are today. Council members have projects...we had a deadline for entering projects for this first round MIP development, and that deadline was January 13th. So, those projects entered by January 13th – all the projects currently in the portal – will be considered for this round. The Council members will recommend what we call an RFE to move project suggestions forward. RFE stands for Request for Evaluation. With all the projects in the portal, we can't do a detailed evaluation on every project. Obviously, there's not enough money to fund all the projects, so we really have to narrow that field to get to a point that we can validate the projects that are in there and check for things such as budget reasonableness, environmental compliance issues, and really validate that particular project. Council members decided that it would require four members to move a project forward into this RFE stage, so if a project does not receive a recommendation from four Council members, then it basically gets put on hold and goes back into the queue for future consideration. If it does receive the required four RFEs, then the Administrator will go back to the Submitter and ask for additional information we will use to conduct a detailed evaluation, and again, that's the feasibility of the project, budget reasonableness, readiness, regulatory status, environmental impact and so forth. These are some of the factors – and this is on Appendix A that you picked up – in the blue box that will be considered by the subject-matter experts that we will use to review these projects. These are not disqualifiers...they are just factors that will be considered as projects are validated. Demonstrates benefit in relation to cost, addresses short-term vs. long-term economic benefits, demonstrates a need and shows the impact of no action, demonstrates that it does not create adverse impacts, expands or promotes an existing industry or offers diversification, demonstrates short- or long-term job creation, demonstrates feasibility of success with measurable outcomes...this part's very important...demonstrates budget reasonableness, demonstrates post-implementation sustainability, which is also very important, addresses risks and uncertainties, and addresses all the environmental compliance

issues, uses cutting-edge technology for construction or implementation, and addresses the readiness and the length of time for completion, and if applicable, demonstrates it is based on best available science. We will also look at the possibility for outside funding sources – outside meaning outside of any oil spill funding sources. So, once we know all the RFE projects, we will post those on the website for public viewing, so you'll know what projects have moved forward. The Administrator will then provide the detailed reports to the Council members on each RFE project, and at this point, the Council members will review the reports and then consider additional factors that will guide them in developing a project slate or slates. The factors they will be looking at are the availability and timing of RESTORE funding, potential leveraging for funds, geographic location, disproportionately affected areas, was project included in a strategic or comprehensive plan, potential for funding from another source – meaning from another oil spill funding source, is that project a better fit for Bucket 3 or for NRDA or NFWF, annual recurring costs for a particular project, the overall benefit to the community or region, who is the best entity to implement the project, is there a possibility to implement the project in stages. Those are some of the factors...there may be more depending on the nature of the project. Once the members have reviewed these projects, they will then determine whether or not a project will be included in the draft MIP. If it's not, then once again, it goes back into the queue for future consideration. If it does make it into the draft MIP, the Administrator will prepare the MIP and present it to the Council for review. The Council will adopt the draft MIP then release it for 45-day public comment period. The Administrator will gather and summarize the public comments at the end of that period, and Council members will review and consider public input. The Administrator will then incorporate revisions and deliver the draft Final MIP to the Council which will then finalize and adopt the MIP. It will then be submitted to Treasury for approval, and then we will have to submit grant applications for each individual project. Alright, that's the process...are there any questions? Casi.

Casi Callaway (Mobile Baykeeper):

Biggest question for you is this final and permanent and the one you're using for the rest of our natural lives, is it amendable after you do this one round, and the other question, I guess, is how will you present the public comments you receive in that 45 days and the fourth question is will you make public comments that will be made on this original draft process you received on the process from 2014 so we can see what thoughts y'all took into account when you decided on this process?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

This process is for this particular Bucket 1 first round MIP. That is not to say that it may or may not change in the future. Obviously, this is the first time the Council will have gone through this process, so we may learn some things that might work better in the future, so we'll see. Let's see...the comments...they will be posted online for the draft MIP, so it will be more of an official response to comments like you would see with other similar public comment periods that you have seen with the other funding sources. That's what I imagine. The draft framework...I don't know...that was not a requirement under the statute or the regulations, and so I can't answer that at this time.

Questioner Unknown:

If a proposal doesn't meet the criteria, are you notifying the author of the proposal at the time you find it's not appropriate or if it's missing a component...do you let them know?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Yes, if a project's missing any information in order to make it complete and put it up on the portal, I notify them immediately. We, quite honestly, have not had a project entered that didn't fit the criteria.

Questioner Unknown:

When that proposal is submitted do you get the recommendations from the four Council members before it's proposed or is that after the proposal meets the criteria? At what point do you seek the Council's recommendations?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

All of projects, when they come into the portal, they're reviewed and they immediately go up for public review, so they're available to the Council and the public at that time.

Carletta Davis:

Could you talk to what the criteria the Council will be using for how the appropriate entity will be chosen to implement the project if the project is chosen?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Much of that may depend on what type of project it is, so it's hard to say definitively how that will be determined. Obviously, there are certain requirements from Treasury as far as risk assessments...there's an operational self-assessment which is fairly extensive as far as the grantee's ability to manage a federal grant that looks at their history of managing federal grants, so I think that those are probably decisions that would be made on a case by case basis, so it's not a black or white type of question that you can answer. I think there will be some subjective areas with respect to the type of project, the amount of the project, that sort of thing.

Jill Mastrototaro:

Could you speak a little bit to Appendix A once a project is actually recommended for RFE...there's a reference to an in-depth review that would be done by subject-matter experts. Can you give us a clearer sense of how those subject-matter experts will be selected and what that in-depth review will entail?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Again, this is going to be determined by what type of projects are put forth by the Council for review. So, for example, if it's a workforce development project, economic development project, we have not contracted with anyone or determined exactly who that entity or who that expert might be, but we imagine...there's a hope we will be able to rely, perhaps, on some of our public universities that have expertise in these areas. The same might be for a road project...ALDOT's an entity who could validate the budget reasonableness, for example, a mile of asphalt cost X number of dollars. So, a lot of it will depend on what is put forth. Any other questions before we move on? Okay, before we get into public comment...is that next on the agenda, Jimmy? I just want to show you the amount of money that the Council will be looking at for Bucket 1. For Bucket 1...sorry, it was too long to be all on one line, as you can see, what we have today in Bucket 1 is just over \$66 million, and BP's first deposit will be in April of this year for just under \$20 million. In 2018 it's only \$10 million...deposits are half of what the other years are due to their last payment to NFWF...it's a very large payment for the criminal fines, so this was part of the settlement agreement. Every other year, you see it's just over \$21 million for 15 years. The available balance for a 1-year plan, as you can see, is just over \$86 million. A 3-year plan would be about \$117-plus, and if the Council were to do a 5-year plan, which is as far out as Treasury will allow them to go, it's \$160 million. This is the website for the Alabama RESTORE Council...the web address, and I'm sure many of you have been there. And of course, we have our Alabama Coastal Restoration site that's our more comprehensive site where you can submit project suggestions and review what is currently on the portal by clicking on that tab right there and it will take you into another screen where you can find the projects, and then of course, you can sign up for email updates. We highly recommend you do that if you want any notifications whether it's NRDA, NFWF, Alabama RESTORE or Federal RESTORE – whenever we have a public meeting or some type of announcement, this is the distribution list we use, so please take a minute to sign up if you have not done so already.

Questioner Unknown:

Has the Council decided how many years they want to fund at this point?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

They have not made a decision on that, but they know they have up to 5 years, and a lot of that may be determined by what projects are put forth and the total dollar amount of those projects, so that's still a question mark. Thank you. I'm going to put the microphone out, so when Mr. Lyons calls you up, if you will – 3 at a time – line up. I've got a timer that will beep after 3 minutes, and it will warn you when you have 30 seconds.

AGENDA ITEM #V: PUBLIC INPUT

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

One other thing, and this would be for the benefit of the members of the Council and also the person taking our minutes. If you're talking about a specific project which I hope you are, please, and if you have it...know the project number, please indicate the project as it appears on the portal. It will make it a lot easier for everybody, because I, for one, will tell you...and some of the others may have memorized all those numbers. The first three coming up are Mike McMillan, mayor of the City of Spanish Fort, and after that will be Buffy Donlon and Avery Bates.

Mike McMillan:

First of all, welcome to Spanish Fort. I'm glad to have you here, as always. Always like to thank the State for building this facility for us in Spanish Fort...it takes a lot of pressure off of us. I'm here to speak in favor of the proposed funding for the road in Baldwin County. We have a unique opportunity with partnerships we have formed...state, ALDOT, BP, municipalities, county...to take a \$36 million investment and make \$120 million out of it. It's not something we get an opportunity to do very often. We all know that growth is going on here, just like in other parts of the state. It's very, very important to move this project forward in Baldwin County. We got the proposed I-10 bridge coming up, which is going to bring more and more people over here. Speaking personally for Spanish Fort, Highway 31, if we don't get that widened, when they do that bridge, we're going to have a mess for sure. Back to back, bumper to bumper traffic, and so, I'm here in support of that. Thank you for your time, and I've got to run to a meeting that started at 2:00. Thank you very much.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, now Buffy Donlon who's with Wintzell's and the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission. Next up Avery and then Bob Chappelle with the Mobile Chamber.

Buffy Donlon:

As Director Lyons said, I'm with the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission through our seafood, Wintzell's Oyster House, restaurant. I wanted to speak just a moment about the opportunity that there is to help the seafood industry. In 2010, as we all were already into the worst of the recession, it was the very worst time that the oil spill could have hit. The seafood industry...many of us and our businesses, overnight, and I'm saying overnight, lost 40% of our business. Many of us went out of business and others stayed in business, and with the help of the Alabama Seafood Commission, which was formed soon after the oil spill...they actually got the first grant money in 2012. In that period of time, it has boosted our industry, and the seafood industry is very important to the State of Alabama. A lot of us that were raised on Alabama seafood pretty much take it for granted. We don't realize what it takes to land that seafood, get it to market, get it in restaurants, so that you have this great Alabama seafood. It's been tough for our industry, and we are hopeful our request will be granted. I would like to say one quick thing about the seafood industry that I think many of you will relate to...I think a lot of you in here are maybe of the age when you will remember when perhaps your grandparents' driveways were lined with

oyster shells. You don't see that much anymore, but because of the oil spill, although it had already begun before that, people don't know that oysters are safe to eat, and it's a wonderful, wonderful product, and people so often thought that there was something wrong with them...it used to be a delicacy and people now they don't really see that those oyster shells are out there anymore, so the Seafood Commission's been very helpful in getting funding for our local reefs, and many of restaurants now are participating in the oyster shell recycling program, which is a great program to keep our oyster reefs and to keep our jobs. Thank you, and I hope that you will consider our request.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Next, Avery Bates, Bob Chappelle and Rosa Zirlott.

Avery Bates:

My name is Avery Bates...many of y'all know me on the Board there. Great to see our new mayor here. Anyway, I come here to speak on the docking facility, project #218, and the outfall line, that's 255 I think. As you know, we have to have clean water in our area to harvest oysters or we'll be reclassified and downgraded, so we can't even work in there anymore. Many of our oyster farmers have lost bottom. In fact, even on our natural reefs this year, we caught 1200 sacks of oysters...it's a disgrace to see the public reefs in such disarray as it is now...we used to catch more than that in one day. The lady spoke well of our seafood industry. Most of my whole life and my grandfather, we are terribly concerned about doing the right thing for our industry...not letting them be polluted and having a docking facility to tie boats up. We've got docking facilities in the Bayou...guess what, first five months of last year, who was number one in unloading shrimp? That's saying a lot for a little town like Bayou La Batre. Now, you're number one, look at all the other big towns, but look at us...we got insufficient docking in the City of Bayou La Batre for that major source of commerce. Not only here, but in Orange Beach and Gulf Shores, people love to eat oysters and shrimp and crab. We've got to build it back so everybody that stays in this country can utilize this resource that God give us many thousands of years ago, and we want to keep for our future generations to enhance it. Make sure you don't let any entity come in here and cover it up with silt. If you got sand to put, put it on Jeff's island...he needs it. I mean, he is losing daily. To have a great asset for tourists like Dauphin Island to waste that dirt is catastrophic and to cover up oysters with silt. If we lose the oyster, it's a travesty, so let's utilize these funds...what did Mayor Craft say...we lost a billion dollars. Let's be honest, some of these places were not affected. Montgomery got a billion dollars we could use down here on the coast. Just keep in mind, the projects that Bayou La Batre puts in by this mayor, that 218 and 255, we want clean water, good oysters, and if you move this outfall line, you'll see Rosa and about 50 more oyster farmers put their oysters in this lady's business and their businesses, but I want y'all to know, we need to be included in any working group that's going to enhance our fishing industry. The working groups have been ignored. It's our bottoms that belong to the rest of the people of the State. Why have we been left out in many areas? It's a shame not to have our voice heard at the table, and we're talking about billions and billions of dollars' worth of income to this state, to our working people. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, next up Bob Chappelle with the Mobile Chamber.

Bob Chappelle:

Yes, sir, thank you, Mr. Lyons. I just want to add some support and comments on two projects...not necessarily in opposition to oysters and seafood...I love me some oysters. The Roll On Roll Off terminal project that the State Port Authority submitted, I believe #321, we have a tremendous opportunity to take advantage of the automotive industry that exists, not only in Alabama, but in the southeast. We're supportive not only of the job impact but the financial impact on our community. It's a great further diversification of our port and our regional economy, so we hope you will give that some consideration for the investment this will pay to this region for years to come. And then I would speak to offer support

for the project related to the Three Mile Creek watershed. Not only from the restoration of the environment in Mobile but the improved recreation and the water quality as well. We're excited about that project. Over the years we've taken hundreds of people on intercity visits. Several years ago, we went to Oklahoma City, and we've seen the benefit of what an investment in a waterway can do. Officials in Oklahoma about 11 years ago on the Oklahoma River which used to only have water in it maybe twice a year, they dammed that thing up, cleaned it up, and now there's over \$50 million invested there to include a U.S. Olympic rowing facility. The rowing team trains there year round. A tremendous tourist attraction, recreational opportunity, and enhancement for Oklahoma City. The Three Mile Creek one, while not exactly the same, will provide that type of impact for Mobile. Thank you for your time.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Next is Rosa Zirlott, followed by Chris Blankenship, and Gary Keifer

Rosa Zirlott:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you today. I am an oyster farmer, so I can tell you firsthand what's going on with me. I am also a shrimper...I have two 97' shrimp boats, so everything that I do all rolls into that we have clean water. I'm supporting the outfall project, #255, safe harbor, #237, and I'm also needing a hatchery. What's going on with me right now it's my fourth year growing oysters. I grew 25,000, I grew 500,000, I grew 800,000, this year I've got 1.5 million in the water. This is what's going on...Alabama has the best tasting oyster around, and this is what I know...we are a warm water oyster and to compete with the East Coast and the West Coast, they think a cold water oyster is the only oyster there is. Right now, I have people in New York City, I have people in Las Vegas, and I got people in California. I have sent just a taste. I don't have enough oysters to supply the demand. I right now have just a few people that I'm supplying, because they started with me first. Everybody else, I'm saying my new crop starts in May, get back with me, the first few, I'm going to take. Now, I'm telling you, my personal experience is first off, I need the water clean. I moved here in the second round. If enough people get on the wastewater treatment plant, I'm going to get shut down if it's not moved. I've got to have that open. Secondly, the industry itself is speaking so loud for Alabama. Everybody knows our oyster. If you don't know me, look up Murderpointoysters.com, go to the In the News and look at articles, magazines are there, just tons of magazines we've been in. It's not me...it's the State, and it's the opportunity it's bringing to the state because there are 7 or 8 oyster farmers right now that's working, and I'm just telling you, we haven't even touched the demand that can come out of this. Right now, I'm looking at a \$25 million impact, and it's going to be greater than that as the years go. We need a hatchery for public and private use. After a hurricane, what happens? It takes us years to mitigate and get the money to get our reefs back. Let me tell you what I'm doing...in 10 months, from the time an oyster spawns at a hatchery to where I can start selling it. They're like kids...they don't all grow exactly the same, I tumble my oysters, but that's another story. If y'all want to come visit me at the farm, you're more than welcome, but this industry is an unbelievable industry. What I can do after hurricane if I've got a hatchery, I can spawn when it gets May, June, July, and in 10 months, there's oysters for somebody to be selling. If I've got to go through all the hoops and get the money, plant, let it grow, then open, then it has to go through predators, and it may get ate then I can't sell it, we lose. The industry still benefits so much. We can put so many people to work. It's an awesome industry. They are dying for Alabama farm-raised oysters. The reason I'm in this the first year I was in it, I opened the cage, dumped it out on my boat. In that cage was shrimp, crab, and fish...it's a sanctuary. Not only do those oysters clean 50,000 gallons of water a day, that basket that I'm using protects that oyster and also is a nursery for all these animals that are growing, so it's a great industry. If you want to know more, I'm happy to tell you more about it.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Great. Next is Chris Blankenship, he's the director of the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission, followed by Gary Keefer and Jennifer Fiddler.

Chris Blankenship:

Thank you for your service on this commission. I know there's a billion dollars' worth of projects in the portal and a lot less than that that you have to choose from to fund something. I just want to take just a minute to speak my support for project #241, continued funding for the Alabama Seafood Marketing Commission. Seafood Marketing Commission was established in 2011 after the oil spill to help with the industry. The seafood industry in Alabama was devastated after the oil spill, not just the restaurants, but the processor, the harvesters, and the consumers. It was a very difficult time. In the 3 minutes Ms. Morgan gave me, I'm going to hit the high points, but I have provided something to you with more information. One thing I want to point out is this is an economically important initiative. The seafood industry in Alabama in 2010 had a \$303 million economic impact. Through the work of the Seafood Marketing Commission and others, the most recent number was \$660 million economic impact, so since the work of the Commission started, we've more than doubled the economic impact of the seafood industry in Alabama. If you translate that into jobs, in 2010, there were a little over 6,000 jobs in the seafood industry in Alabama. The most recent numbers are a little over 15,000 jobs, and that's 9,000 new jobs that have been added to the industry. We've done the heavy lifting with the Seafood Marketing Commission. The other numbers on here...they don't have 2010 numbers, because the Commission started from 0. We're looking for funding to keep that initiative going, keep that momentum going, keep the men and women of Alabama in the seafood industry working. You heard from Buffy, with Wintzell's, and what it's meant to her business, and so I'd just appreciate it if you'd support project #241. In the minute that I have left, I'd also take my Seafood Marketing hat off, and put on my Alabama – the Oyster Aquaculture Board – I'm the chairman of the Oyster Aquaculture Board...Commissioner gets his money's worth out of me. We started this initiative a few years ago to grow oysters in Alabama. Ms. Zirlott's one of the success stories. The demand for the oysters to be grown in Alabama far outpaces our ability to supply the oysters. We have a demand for probably somewhere around 20-25 million oysters – our supply right now is a little over 2 or 3 million oysters. The single biggest impediment to growing that industry is the sewer outfall in Bayou La Batre where it needs to be moved. That's an impediment for people who have capital and would like to come to our state to invest and to start large oyster aquaculture farms and some of the smaller farms from local people. The location of that outfall and the closed waters around that in the growing waters that are most optimal for this oyster aquaculture is the biggest impediment to the growth of that industry. We would speak on behalf of the Alabama Oyster Aquaculture Review Board in favor of project #255. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Great. Thank you. Next Gary Keifer, Jennifer Fiddler and then Smitty Thorne.

Gary Keifer:

Hello ladies and gentlemen. I'm Gary Keifer, and I'm on the Town Council of Perdido Beach, and I don't know if I'm in the right place or not, but I'm definitely new to politics, so bear with me. We have a project that we are fixing to start about acquiring land in Perdido Beach to put a boat ramp and a pier and a small boat house that we have BP funds allocated to do this. Well, I was talking with the mayor on the way here that they did find underwater grass on the property that we're thinking about buying, so we're going to have to get the mitigation on this grass. It looks like the funds we have allocated for this project might not be enough, so am I in the right place to try to get more funds that are so needed to complete this project?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Projects that are currently in the portal are the projects that will be considered for this round.

Gary Keifer:

Okay.

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

But I would love to talk with you after the meeting and give you some more information.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

And I want to mention one thing. We will start the process on Bucket 3 which is the same eligible criteria that Eliska showed you earlier with the exception that only 25% of those funds can go into infrastructure, so it will not be infrastructure heavy, it will be infrastructure light. We just simply do not have enough bodies to evaluate and run both of these at the same time, so we're going to look at this process we're doing for this one, and if it's working fine, then we'll use the same process, and if it needs tweaking, to speak to your question, Casi, we will tweak the process, but we will go through a similar process, and when we begin to talk about Bucket 3, and again, it will be a multiyear effort – what do they call it?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

State Expenditure Plan.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Yes, a State Expenditure Plan is what they call it. That also has to be submitted to the Feds, but I would think we would probably have to finish the evaluation process before we go any further. Go ahead...I'm taking up your time. Jennifer Fiddler.

Jennifer Fiddler:

Thank you for your time. This should be a fun committee, right, giving out all the money instead of figuring out where it's going to come from? I'm here to speak on behalf of the Working Waterfront Greenspace restoration project. It's project #332. I'm Fairhope's Public Works Director, and I have witnessed some of the issues we're having with wind erosion and beach erosion quite intimately I would say, and in that request that we have, we're asking to try to prevent some of that erosion, that beach erosion and the wind-blown sand erosion. The City did enter into an agreement to write a beach management plan for the area, so we have started to go through some of the process. We focused on the southern portions of our beaches, so we do have a little of a plan that we feel like we can go about putting in some erosion control measures for our wind and our sand. We have a whole area that we want to go, and I know we have a couple more people here from the City of Fairhope who may want to speak on this behalf. I know they'll talk about some of the issues, too, but I came to attest to the fact that we have spent a lot of money over the last 5 years stopping that wind and beach erosion, building up dunes on our north beach front park and our south beach front parks, we have spent tons of money on tons of sand...dump trucks full of sand...you've seen us on the news about it. That's all I have to say. Thank you very much.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Next Smitty Thorne, then Tom Williams and Tammy Herrington.

Smitty Thorne:

Thank you. I'm Smitty Thorne. I'm the Deputy Director of the Alabama State Port Authority and Chief Operating Officer. I'm here to speak on behalf of our project, #321, which is the vehicle processing and Ro-Ro (roll on, roll off) Vessel Terminal to facilitate import and export of vehicles made in Alabama and the Southeast. Alabama's the 5th largest state in automobile production and the Southeast is growing every day in this production. We're the 9th largest port in the United States, and we exist on our earnings. We do not receive funding from the State's general fund. We plow our earnings back into the Port, we get federal grants occasionally, and we do a lot of public-private projects for funding. We want to take 67 acres that was the oldest facility at the Port, a coal handling facility that's been there since 1928, and repurpose it for the handling of import and export of automobiles. This project, we're asking for \$25 million from the RESTORE Act. It's a \$52 million project, and we believe it will return \$130 million. It

will create 615 permanent jobs with a \$44 million personal income and consumer impact. It will have \$34 million in business revenue, creating \$3.7 million in taxes, \$10 million in local purchasing for the facility, and the construction of \$35.5 million will create \$35.5 million in personal income and \$2.9 million in taxes. Automotive has driven a lot of what we've done at the Port in the past years starting with our \$300 million container terminal, our \$100 million Pinto terminal where we bring steel slabs in for the steel plant. Steel plants creating automotive coil. We're bringing in import automotive coils, we put in a \$35 million facility for handling coils. Just so much of what we're doing now is driven by the automotive industry. We're now the 2nd largest import steel facility in the United States behind Houston. Automotive is growing, our Port is growing, and we need the funds to keep this moving. I thank you for your time.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, next, Tom Williams, City of Satsuma, then Tammy Herrington, then Casi Callaway.

Tom Williams:

Thanks you, Mr. Lyons. Let me take the opportunity to thank the Council for the work that you do and the work that you're charged to do, for your time and your effort. We appreciate that...everybody in this room I'm sure. I'm here to speak on behalf of project #223, it's a Northwest Satsuma Sewer Infrastructure project, \$1,454,929. It would provide infrastructure of sewer and water service to those residents living in the northwest part of the City of Satsuma which is on the west side of the interstate. The high ground water level and the number of septic tanks in this area is of great concern to the City. Each of these residents has a residential well and our stormwater runoff in this area goes two ways – it runs north into Steel Creek which eventually runs into Gunnerson Creek. The southern part of this area, the stormwater eventually runs into Bayou Sara, and all of it eventually winds up in the River. This project will protect the health of our citizens and protect our environment, our natural resources of a marine and wildlife habitat. Steel Creek, Gunnerson Creek and Bayou Sara at the present time are slow-moving freshwater pristine streams. They're a haven for fish and wildlife – birds, kayaking, canoeing, boating, camping, and hiking. Through Ms. Ludgood's efforts, we expect that all of these waterways will be a part of the State's Blueway Kayak and Canoe Trail. If these waterways were ever contaminated, it would devastate the economy in the northwestern part of the Mobile-Tensaw watershed. The Satsuma Wastewater Treatment Plant is more than capable of handling the increased volume and our discharge from our wastewater plants exceeds all standards at the present time. Our project is also included in the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program CCMP, and I would respectfully request that we have at least 4 of the individuals that it requires for a Request for Evaluation for this project, and I thank you very much.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Tammy Herrington, followed by Casi and then Chad Hennis.

Tammy Herrington:

Hi, I'm Tammy Herrington. I'm the Executive Director for the Conservation Alabama Foundation, and I want to thank you for all the work you've already done and thank those of you who are new Council members. I look forward to working with you in the coming year on these projects. I'm really more here to talk generally, not about a specific project. We worked with a group – Alabama Renewal Group – over the past several years, and we've met with many of you, and one of the things we've been talking about is looking through what we call the triple-bottom line, so as you choose projects, we want to encourage you to look at projects and choose projects that will help, not only our economy but our environment and our community. We're excited to hear there are so many people out here today talking about projects that will impact positively our seafood, our water, our communities, our businesses. All of you know this was a huge economic disaster for the two coastal counties because of the environmental impact it created. We all saw in our community how largely tied together our environmental and economy are and how that does impact so much what happens in our coastal communities, so we would encourage you to choose

projects that would positively impact all three of those areas. We also just want to mention that we think the worst thing that we could do is cause more environmental harm for our community. While we hope that you will look at projects that will use sensitive approaches whenever possible that we would commit through these projects that we choose not to do any additional environmental harm to our communities. I also want to speak briefly to the process. I know we're focused largely on projects today, but we mentioned the Multiyear Implementation Plan and the process that you put together. Thank you so much for your hard work on that. There were many of us who made comments about that process and those were some of the questions that were asked Eliska about earlier about how those comments were incorporated, and I know there were many people here today who are speaking about projects and the other thing we've talked a lot about is that process and how we incorporate public input and the transparency that goes along with that, so when we're looking forward, say for instance Pot 3 that Director Lyons mentioned earlier, the State Expenditure Plan, we hope that you will incorporate the expertise of groups like ours that are looking at how we need to meet those federal, meet the Comprehensive Plan through the federal process as well and thank you very much for your service. We're grateful for the work that you're doing.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Casi Callaway with Mobile Baykeeper, followed by Chad Hennis and Walter Ernest.

Casi Callaway:

Thank you. I'm Casi Callaway, the Director of Mobile Baykeeper, I probably don't have to repeat too much after what Tammy just said, but I do want to start with the process. The process is something we've worked on now for 6 ½ years, and I am a broken record in saying that we need a review processor a review team. We completely understand the way you cut it to making sure that the projects were supported in the process you got together that you want for Council members to select those projects before you review everything. That's brilliant. But there is an easy and ready group of people who want to participate in that process that we have heard you all individually at different points say that you support, and that's through the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program. You have a ready-built group in every way shape and form – you've got a Science Advisory Committee, you've got a Business Resources Committee, you've got the community involved, you've got citizen groups on the ground who can see how these processes and projects work. Please take a look at that, if not in this process understand, but before you move on to the next process in phase 3. Public comment...the public wants to know when they show up to a meeting like this that it's not just to speak to the air and the wind. We're wanting to know that you're responding us, that you hear us, so finding a way to make sure you're putting that information back out is critically important. On the projects as well, we have a long list of yes's and no's that I can send you, but I didn't bring the yes/no list with me to go over every single one, so I'm hoping that it's going to be acceptable to submit comments in writing after today's meeting. On the general, and I've love to know what the timeline is on that. In the general, I would also add that some of the projects we see that give us caution are projects that directly and privately benefit one individual company or organization. That's not what we want to see with this money. We don't think that's what it was intended to do. This was a community-wide impact and the money should go community-wide and make an impact community-wide. We also want to see that every single project, again to repeat what Tammy said, to drive this home, is that the projects should not have an environmental impact. I would prefer zero environmental impact, not need an environmental permit, but that's not going to be perfect. I think that looking at every single project to insure it does not have an environmental impact or that you are mitigating in a way that is a large multiplication of what you do impact. This is vitally important. This was an environmental disaster, not just at an economic disaster. The environment was impacted, therefore our economy was impacted. The other thing I would say, too, is that we've got to make sure – we definitely believe that infrastructure projects, such as stormwater, waste water treatment facilities, upgrades on projects like the outfall line are vitally important to Bayou La Batre, but everywhere. You've got sewer infrastructure problems, you've got massive stormwater problems throughout both

communities that need to be addressed. That is the single biggest economic benefit that all of our communities in Mobile and Baldwin Counties could have. And the last thing I want to say, too, is that we've got a big deal to look at the dollars. How much did this cost? Y'all have a big deal looking at these dollars. You're doing it all yourselves. How expensive is this project? How expensive is maintenance? Is that sustainable? Please take a look at these projects to make sure you're able to get to the longest term solutions and putting the best money foot forward, if you will.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thanks, Casi. Chad Hennis with Saraland Water and Sewer, then Walter Ernest and Terry Williams.

Chad Hennis:

I appreciate having the opportunity to speak today. I'm with the Saraland Water and Sewer Service. In 2015, Saraland Water acquired the Saraland Sewer System and today I'm here to ask for your help. Our plant's in bad shape, trying to improve it. Our outfall line in Bayou Sara basically needs some help. We used our pumps up in the water department, we're land-locked, we have a lot of rural water systems around Saraland that we can't encroach or go into their areas. Basically, we're land-locked. I need some help, and I appreciate all the help y'all can give. Thanks.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, Walter Ernest with Pelican Coast Conservancy.

Walter Ernest:

Thank you, Mr. Lyons. My name is Walter Ernest. I'm the Director of Operations for the Pelican Coast Conservancy. We're a land trust. Briefly, I want to encourage you to consider land acquisition activities. There are numerous projects in the portal, too many to list today, but they're all quality projects ranging from Weeks Bay to Dauphin Island, Eastern Shore to the Brookley Bayfront. I could go on and on. Projects that come to mind today are 104 and 238. Project 104 is for Neotropical bird habitat on Dauphin Island. As you know, it's an important migratory birding area. The National Audubon Society named it a Globally Important Birding Area. And Project 238, that's the Brookley Bayfront Park, to create some green space for Brookley to tie into Mayor Stimpson's Green Broad project. These are just two...I could go on and on...there's projects on the Eastern Shore, projects in south Mobile County and Baldwin County. I hope you will use funds from Buckets 1, 3 or 5 for either outright land acquisitions through fee simple means or permanent conservation easements. Also, I look forward to your approval of the Dauphin Island Sea Lab as your Center of Excellence. They'll do a great job and thank you for doing that. Thanks.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Terry Williams, next Jill Mastrototaro and then Charles Hyland.

Terry Williams:

My name's Terry Williams. I just want to thank you for serving on this Council. I think it's probably very difficult, but it should also be very rewarding. I am the new mayor of Mt. Vernon, and my first time as a public servant. Our project, I believe it's number 319, is a new water system plant for the Town of Mt. Vernon. I inherited a 54-year-old treatment plant that has been patched and patched for years. Any part that goes down now has to be made, and we're having one made now – a multiboard to have our line fully regulated. It would help the northeast part of the County to grow. We're also trying to annex to our north and west. We'll have more citizens added to our town. There's another impact significant to our growth. Also, in Mt. Vernon, there's a great place to build a marina – you have the boats on the coast when a storm comes, they come north. We've got lots of good water and lots of good fishing. The water treatment plant is important to our growth, and I hope you will consider it. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):
Next Jill, then Charles Hyland and Carletta Davis.

Jill Mastrototaro:

I'm Jill Mastrototaro, policy specialist with the National Wildlife Federation working on the Deepwater Horizon recovery efforts in Alabama and Mississippi. I want to thank the Council thus far. We recognize that your work is key to holistic, coordinated to Gulf-wide restoration, and it comes home here in Mobile Bay, and as you move forward, we understand this is a process you try to use for Pot 1 and actually Pot 3. We feel like Pot 3 with the State Expenditure Plan has a much higher bar associated with it because of its connection to the RESTORE Council and the federal regulations connected to the Council's work. So, we'd love to sit down and talk with you about some potential opportunities to strengthen the process that you're looking at. We feel like, particularly from a science point of view, we had recommended in our comments two years ago, almost to the day, when the draft Pot 1 process was proposed that science review be a critical piece of what is built into the process that you have developed, and we urge you to as you look at the RFE in-depth review piece we end up with experts that you have a science review process built in, and there are many folks in the academic community but also the non-project community and beyond that can provide a supportive resource to help with that type of review. As it relates to the triple-bottom line benefit, certainly Pot 1 is a great opportunity to leverage projects that are not just more traditional in their infrastructure components, but they'll benefit businesses that were impacted here. It's really exciting to hear some of the energy around water quality projects and outdoor recreation projects that support the businesses that connect infrastructure. That gets back to the heart of what makes coastal Alabama – our resources, our water quality, our wildlife and fisheries. And, finally, I would ask that given that there was an opportunity for public comment recognizing that it may not have been formally required under the RESTORE Act, I'm a bit disappointed that there was no opportunity to get some kind of response from the Council to those comments. Would love to continue the conversation of how we can help make a more robust process that you're going to be working towards. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):
Thank you, Jill. Charles Hyland next, then Carletta Davis and Pete Barber third.

Charles Hyland:

Good afternoon. I'm Charles Hyland, the Director of Mobile Area Water and Sewer System, and I appreciate the opportunity to be able to speak to you today. I would like to ask for your consideration of two projects. The first is project ID #277. This project would allow us to connect public sewer in the Dog River area where septic tanks are currently failing. This particular project would impact about 440 households that exist today and also would allow for future development. This is an area south of Dog River on both sides of Dauphin Island Parkway. The completion of this project would benefit the community by eliminating potential discharge to surface waters and improve overall water quality, help protect the seafood industry and enhance overall public health. The second project is #278, the Perch Creek CIPP project. This would allow us to line some existing sewer lines down in the Perch Creek area on both sides of Dauphin Island Parkway. This also would benefit the overall environment and the community and help protect public health. It would allow us to line about 27,000 linear feet of existing sewer line. In this particular process that's used, it's the most economic and environmentally friendly approach, because you don't have to dig up the sewer lines. You just basically line the existing sewer line which actually extends the useful life of that pipe 50 to 75 years. We certainly appreciate the work that you do, and we would ask for your favorable consideration for both of those projects, and thanks for this time to speak with you today.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):
Carletta Davis, Pete Barber and then Eva Golson.

Carletta Davis:

Good afternoon...Carletta Davis, Chairman of Coastal Community Council for MORE. I, too, would like to thank this Council for all of the hard work that you all have put into coming up with a process and doing all that you've done thus far, especially like to thank Eliska for coming out and meeting with us to explain, personally, the processes of this board and what's going on. I stand in the gap today for the minority communities that have submitted projects into the portal. There are several that I'm aware of including the ones for the City of Prichard but also numbers 326, 175, 176, 177, 179 and 305. The minority community was impacted by this horrific spill just as much as the other communities were. I think we often forget that a lot of the workers that worked along the coast were minority workers and therefore were impacted because they lost jobs and businesses. So, our association – we're a coalition that put in a project to try to spawn the invention of the commercialization of products that are inventors, so we put in for an inventors lab to be placed in north Mobile County, in Prichard, to again, spawn commercialization of products and prototypes, and so we hope that you would consider this project that we know that it will create jobs and businesses, and also it will spawn off growth in other industries such as logistics and it would also go towards the diversification goal that you have for your Council. So, again, we thank you so much. We hope that you strongly consider our project.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Next, Pete Barber with Alabama Seafood Association and behind Eva Golson will be Jennifer Denson.

Pete Barber:

Good afternoon. I'd like to speak in favor of the moved outfall line and also the extra dock space in Bayou La Batre. It's kind of interesting that both of these were action items after Hurricane Katrina and the process chaired by Ricky Matthews. They're not new ideas, but is something that is definitely needed. And speaking to Rosa's concerns about needing a hatchery, we're partially there. In fact, Eliska knows...NFWF, NRDA, everything...we have proposed all kinds of things for creating that hatchery with Bryant High School, and if those are still on it...I don't know any numbers. The project, everything you heard from the seafood industry is very necessary. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, Eva.

Eva Golson:

I don't have anything to say...I must have signed the wrong paper.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Jennifer. Jennifer Denson, and then we've got Jonathan Smith and then Vicki Howell.

Jennifer Denson.

Good afternoon. Thank you so much for giving the opportunity to share some information with you. I'm Jennifer Denson, the Executive Director with Partners for Environmental Progress. For those new to the Council, we're a business association made up of local industry – everything from Evonik to industrial suppliers to providers that work with them, Austal, the Port and others - really focusing on applying best environmental practices on businesses and industry. I'm not going to speak particularly about any one specific project, but a little bit about the process as well. We feel strongly that requiring the subject-matter experts to evaluate the complex issues involved in these projects and to ensure that the projects added to the MIP are using best available science and it will not have adverse environmental impacts is absolutely crucial to the entire process. We also feel it's important to all the projects that make it to MIP are consistent with the NEP's CCMP and all of the watershed management plans that have been going on throughout our area. Many of the projects in the portal are very well-designed and they're needed, but it's

imperative the Council allow those with the highest priority, the highest need, and the best beneficial impact those economically and environmentally are allowed to rise to the top. I hope that the RFE will allow the subject-matter experts to make sure that all the projects are using best environmental practices, best management practices, green infrastructure, LID development practices and more. There are so many projects in the portal that are worthy and certainly more than we have funding for, and I do not envy your position at all. I know that you all have competing priorities for making these decisions, so overall, we ask the Council to select infrastructure projects that not only are important for the environment, but have true significant environmental impact as well. Projects that have that triple-bottom line, as you heard today from Tammy and Casi and others. So, there are a number of projects that we support because they meet that triple-bottom line, some of which you heard today, for stormwater management, utility companies talking about sewer infrastructure. Frankly, especially in Mobile, the infrastructure is crumbling and needs to be addressed long-term and short-term. And certainly the Three Mile Creek project the Chamber spoke about, the watershed restoration as well as the greenway, those are all projects that will bring economic and environmental and social benefits to the community, and that really is where RESTORE Act money should be spent.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Next, Jonathan Smith with the City of Fairhope, Vicki Howell follows Jonathan and then Skip Jones.

Jonathan Smith:

Good afternoon and thank you. I appreciate the opportunity to express my support for project number 331 for a Fairhope Area Community-based Land Use Plan. As you all know, Fairhope is an extremely unique town. We have many resources which include our parks, our pedestrian network, our watersheds. We have eight tributaries that go to the Fish River watershed, so that's 8 tributaries that go into Mobile Bay. Our Central Business District in downtown directly relates to tourism. Our dedicated and involved citizenry is also one of our major assets. Project 331 is the Fairhope Area Community-based Land Use Plan. This project will be used to evaluate all our City ordinances relative to development with data. With the data collected during this process, the City will develop regulatory provisions that will allow us to be better stewards of our environment and our development processes. These planning efforts are imperative to Fairhope and our region. Healthy development practices are not only critically connected to our environmental resources, but they're also tied to our regional tourism and effort toward land acquisition, clean industry, economic development, and quality of life enjoyed by our coastal Alabama residents. Again, I'd like to express my support for project 331, and thank you all for your time. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Next is Vicki Howell.

Vicki Howell:

Good afternoon everyone. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to you and thank you to the Council for your unenviable job to figure out how to fund all these projects, but I am going to speak up for ones that I hope you guys will fund. I wanted to follow up on Ms. Davis' comments – I'm standing her as a representative of the NAACP, particularly our economic development committee. We understand that for a community to grow, all segments of the community have to grow. Now, we hope that from this Council, the projects that are created, that you will see the benefits of creating an economic infrastructure in some of our most underserved areas. In particular, I want to put a word in for 175, 176, 177, and 179, and those are the projects in Africatown. I had the distinct honor of writing the history of the Birmingham Civil Rights Trail, and I can't tell you how big a tourist attraction that has become. The history of civil rights, the history of African American heritage is a huge, huge industry, and so these projects will give the Africatown community the opportunity kind of to polish that diamond in the rough to bring the people here who are going to want to get the oysters, to go to the hotels, and bring economic

development and tourism dollars into the area and to a unique experience these particular project will bring to the area. Also, I stand to ask your support of project 305, it is the Community Enterprise Investment Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce Revolving Loan Fund for small businesses. We really believe that...I've been involved in some projects here with task force, a segment of the Chamber that deals with minority businesses, and I can't tell you the number of businesses that are out there who need the help and support of growing, because these kinds of funds will allow them to get access to funds that they might not get otherwise. It's so very important that we fund this...\$1.5 million is not a lot, and we're going to supplement that hopefully with investor dollars as well as banking dollars, because these private lenders together with the business owners will create the kind of economic impact that that \$1.5 million doesn't sound like a lot, but it can do a huge uplift in our community by providing businesses with the tools to create green energy, create sustainable projects and I think addresses the triple impact economic – economy, environment, and community. Finally, I also want to put in a word of support for the Inventor's Lab, #306, and of course, the City of Prichard for land acquisition and for conservation project 127. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Skip Jones is next, Chris Nelson and Melanie Baldwin.

Skip Jones:

I'm a resident of Fairhope, and I'm on the Fairhope Harbor Board. Jennifer Fiddler spoke a few minutes ago about one of the 3 elements in project 332 and her emphasis was on the beach nourishment and restoration for the project. The other two parts are waterfront infrastructure improvement and repair and the third one is stormwater management and public education about stormwater management. The Harbor Board for about the last year or so has been developing a plan to – Fairhope has two "harbors" – we have the Fairhope pier which is a huge recreational resource, and it also has about a 30-slip boat harbor. Fairhope also owns the north side of Fly Creek on the north side of town, and we have a harbor there that almost 100 slips and a boat repair facility. Both of these facilities need repair, and they also need some development to encourage – use both of our residents and a growing number of boat owners to using Mobile-area and Fairhope and Dog River, and we hope use Fairhope as a stop on their cruises from the north to the south and the loop cruises all along the eastern United States. The plan to restore the harbors includes infrastructure – both depth management which would be dredging – some of that might tie into Jennifer's nourishment program because the pier is right in the middle of our beach area. We also hope to create more jobs and improve the environmental relationship of the harbor and Fly Creek. Stormwater management and education part of the project both would affect the quality of water in the Bay and also affect how citizens' appreciate how to manage stormwater. Thank you for allowing me to speak, and I certainly appreciate y'all's considerable effort on this.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Next is Chris Nelson, followed by Melanie Baldwin and then Ray Neihuss.

Chris Nelson:

Thank you, I appreciate this opportunity. I'm Chris Nelson with Bon Secour Fisheries. I participated as a result of an invite by our previous Governor to be on the Coastal Recovery Commission which went on during the initial stages of the recovery from the oil spill, and I chaired the seafood committee during that effort, and we identified several major issues, one of which was the creation of some sort of marketing arm in the state that would allow us to compete with other regions as well as other states along the Gulf Coast. The Louisiana Seafood Promotion & Marketing Board had been very successful and had been very well funded and continues to be for a number of years. I would like to speak in favor of funding the Current Seafood Marketing Commission. I understand that's project 241. We have done a lot of good with it. I know Ms. Buffy spoke about it earlier, and Chris Blankenship has done a very good job of leading us through that very successful process so far, and we need to continue to fund it. I will say that

as you market, you create competition, and I'm sure Buffy can speak to the fact there have been a few more restaurants to serve this good Gulf seafood we've promoted, and particularly in Alabama. In order to help us compete better, we need to do one of the other things that the CRC suggested which is modernization of our shore-side facilities. We're being out-competed by overseas facilities as well as those regionally in other states that bring in product to take advantage of the markets we're creating. Finally, I'd like to speak in favor of dealing with the clean water issues that we are facing in Mobile Bay and in Alabama waters, primarily the one that was mentioned earlier – the outfall in Bayou La Batre. We need to deal with that, so we can continue to grow oysters. Oysters need clean water. My father went up to Washington, DC – he always reminds me – in the early 70s to testify in favor of the Clean Water Act, and we continue to need the very, very clean waters provided by that in order to serve oysters raw. Thank you very much.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Melanie Baldwin with the City of Prichard, next Bob Riggs, and then Ossia Edwards, City of Prichard.

Melanie Baldwin:

Good afternoon. Thank you for having this hearing. I am speaking on behalf of projects 127 and 211, and there's 210, but 211 and 127 would regionally enable us to meet with Saraland and Chickasaw and enhance Chickasabogue Park with canoeing and things of that nature. All of us, I believe, in Saraland, Satsuma, and Chickasaw have put in to be able to develop Chickasabogue Park through kayaking and things of that nature, and that will bring ecotourism dollars, so we would like for you all to think about 127 and 211. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Bob Riggs.

Bob Riggs:

Yes, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on behalf of 332, which is the Fairhope Waterfront Redevelopment project. You've already had two speakers address this, and I'll be real brief but perhaps a different facet of this project. As you're well-aware, with Gulf Shores and Orange Beach and all of Baldwin County is a tourism mecca for the entire State. Sometimes we forget the Eastern Shore, particularly Fairhope. Fairhope is an enormous tourist attraction. The Grand Hotel, our art festival each year is one of the largest in the nation...over 200,000 people attend this festival each year. Throughout the year, there is ongoing tourism with film festivals, writer workshops, on and on and on. This is a tremendous aspect of our community. Finally, we're getting ready in Fairhope to open a new, state-of-the-art 15-field soccer complex. It's going to be a major new commitment to our tourism industry. Faulkner State Community College just recently open a beautiful outdoor amphitheater where there's a whole host of activities going on. This waterfront development project would tie right in with the tourism emphasis for Fairhope and the Eastern Shore. Skip alluded we have already in our Fly Creek complex over 500 recreational yachts, sailboats and other vessels, and we've become increasingly the point of destination for cruising yachts, loopers, and others during the migration from the Great Lakes who go down to South Florida each year. More and more yachts are coming into our community each year and each month, they enjoy and delight and spend time and their money in Fairhope which is a good thing, so this project would create a beautiful new waterfront and attract tourists of all nature but also the tourists who are traveling and recreational tourists who are using their vessels. Certainly appreciate the opportunity and give us an enhanced opportunity to increase tourism to our City. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. Ossia Edwards, City of Prichard.

Ossia Edwards:

Good afternoon. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to appear before for the City of Prichard. If you look at all three of the projects – 127, 210 and 211 – actually, there an extension of one another. Just to give you a brief little history, to see how all this fits together, it has been a long road for us. I can say 2001, I think it began with Mobile Estuarium, Auburn University, Baykeepers, others, Boy Scouts in order to pull certain programs and projects together. What we did...we looked at the streams, and we looked at areas where we could abstract our undeveloped pocket parks. They came in, these organizations, and they taught us how to do this ourselves. We also organized what we call PERK, Prichard Environmental Restoration Keepers, and those are people who go out into the community and work with the schools and so forth. They're in the process right now of the third pocket park. Because we know this is very important, they talk about health, changing lifestyles, and as I speak, we have begun as far as our bike trail. It starts at Prichard Stadium and it goes through our rich, historic area, and then hopefully, we will connect with Chickasabogue, and hopefully, later on, to our schools in the City of Prichard. We look at, and I have said this before, that if you look at, we have 8 watershed areas. Those watersheds we monitor closely, we have signs up and so forth. Christian Miller is the one that worked with us on that project, but the problem is, and I've said before, the streams and mini-streams and tributaries and so forth that we have in the City of Prichard, we have many that we can launch as far as kayaking and canoeing and so forth. We need to have also a fishing pier so that we connect with the culture about keeping those people who traveled those tributaries and so forth. The other thing that I wanted to mention is the fact if you look at the many, like Thomas Springs and so forth, we have more streams and creeks I think than anyone for the most part. And I've said if those streams are not clean, and we've tried our best to do so, then every one of our streams and tributaries, they filter out to Chickasabogue Creek from Chickasabogue Creek to Mobile Bay from Mobile Bay to the Gulf of Mexico. My question is, if we don't clean the small streams and creeks, then how are we going to keep the larger bodies of water clean? So, if you look at the three projects, they're ongoing, we have established, we have a historic commission that's now able to buy land, homes and so forth. We have such a rich, rich history, so I dearly ask you to please consider these projects. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Alright, we've got one more that just came in. Jackie Antalon.

Jackie Antalon:

Happy New Year everyone. We're still here, we're still here, we're still here. Hello, I am here in two capacities. One, I will start first as a member of the Gulf Future Coalition, and I will say that we're here to ensure that you remember the work that the on-the-ground grassroots communities did to enable the State to get this money, to enable you to be sitting at this table, to enable you to distribute the monies. We are looking for you to be held accountable for the equitable distribution of the funds. Not only in the number of projects, but also in the dollar value of projects. We have several concerns, one of the core concerns is again transparency. We still have serious concerns about transparency, and the second issue is meaningful engagement. Several have been invited and very few have attended. There is a selection of who will, and we feel there is a scope of entitlement. If you look at the demographics of our coastal communities, it is not reflected by this Council, so we are appealing to you, morally, in the distribution of these funds. That's the end of Gulf Future. I am here in support of Project #333. It exceeds all

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

What's that project number?

Jackie Antalon:

333. It exceeds all elements of RESTORE. It stands within itself without any other self-explanation. We would love to have each and every one of you remember that impacted communities, those communities that have oil and gas lines coming through their communities. This is a historic black community –

Coden, Alabama – which is almost over 300 years old, so we are appealing to you to do your job for the work that we have done to bring this money to our community. Thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Thank you. This is all of the cards that we've had representing people who wanted to speak. There's some time left, not a lot, but we've got some time left, so if there's anybody who didn't know about the cards or would like to speak, same limitation, same 3 minute limitation, we'd be happy to have you come up here, very clearly tell us your name and who you're with, so we can be sure and record it. The cards give us information we can get to be incorporated into the minutes. Is there anybody else who would like to speak? Well, I never hate ending a meeting early (laughter). Eliska has something else.

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Just real quickly, if anyone does have additional comments that they would like to send to us in written form, then if you go on our website, and I'm trying to get back to that slide...it's locked up, the restorealabama.org...if you go...well, it's just decided it won't let me go there. It's restorealabama.org, and you can go on...there is a website email address, agcrc

Patti Powell (State Lands Director, Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources): It's the top icon here on the comprehensive site...click on the top and it will take you there.

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

There we go, sorry. But thank you, the comprehensive site will allow you to get to this site. If you go here, on the homepage down at the bottom, the email address is there...agcrc@dcnr.alabamtha.gov, so you can email us at that address, and we are happy to take comments on projects as well, and they will certainly be distributed to the Council members. Thank you very much for being here today.

Casi Callaway:

Is there a timeline?

Eliska Morgan (Council Executive Director):

Yes, the Council members have been given a deadline of February 17th to have all of their RFEs submitted to us, and then depending on what we get project-wise, there's not a deadline for detailed reviews and having those back, because we don't know how long that process might take just yet. Thank you for asking that, Casi.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, one other thing, I just wanted to offer...Franklin, do you have any comments on behalf of the Governor?

Franklin Johnson (Deputy Chief of Staff, Proxy for Governor Bentley):

Thanks, Jimmy. I just want to say thank you all for being here, for your passion for projects, and the Governor certainly looks forward to reviewing the projects and all this process, so thank you.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Any other Council members have any comments they'd like to make?

Tony Kennon (Mayor of Orange Beach):

Yes, I'd like to encourage us to – after February 17th – go to work, and let's get these projects approved and the money spent and get things done. Things have drug on way too long.

Director Lyons (AGCRC Vice-Chairperson):

Okay, on behalf of the Council, I'd like to thank you all for being here, for those who took the time to speak...we appreciate your comments, your comments have been noted and the minutes will be written and distributed to the members of the Council. We've individually made notes, so we'll be working on these, and as Eliska said, if you've got some written comments, go ahead and get them in. I think, Casi, you said you had a list you want to send, so that's a perfect place to do that. Again, thank you very much for your time and patience and for getting us out of here on time. Thank you.

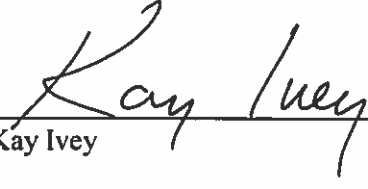
NEXT MEETING DATE:

No future meeting date was announced.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned by Director Lyons – 4:55 p.m. Central Time.

ALABAMA GULF COAST RECOVERY COUNCIL

By: 
Governor Kay Ivey
Its Chair

ATTEST:

By: 
Director James K. Lyons
Its Vice-Chair