

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Initial Funded Priorities List (FPL)

Lessons Learned and Path Forward Webinar



Goals:

- Seek public input on Initial FPL Process
- Identify key lessons
- Inform the update of the Comprehensive Plan
- Improve future FPLs



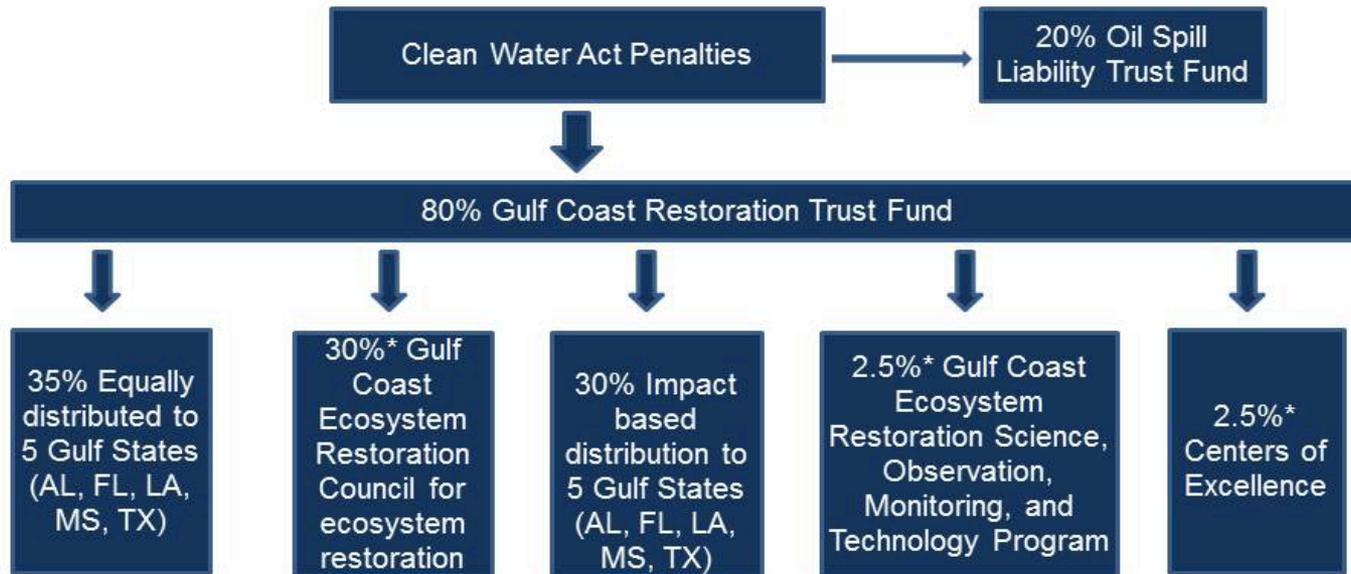
Presentation Topics

- Overview of RESTORE Act & funding
- Initial Comprehensive Plan & Funded Priorities List Process
- FPL Review – Key Questions
 - FPL Process
 - Public Involvement
 - Science & Measuring Success



RESTORE Act: Passed in 2012

Allocation of Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund



***Supplemented by interest generated by the Trust Fund (50% to Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council, 25% to Science Program, 25% to Centers of Excellence)**



Funding

- **Settlement with Transocean for \$1 Billion Clean Water Act (CWA) civil penalties**
 - \$800 Million plus interest available in Trust Fund
- **On November 30, 2015 Anadarko Petroleum, Inc. was ordered to pay \$159.5 Million CWA Civil Penalties**
 - \$127.7 Million has been paid into the Trust Fund
- **On October 5, 2015 United States announced a Consent Decree between BP and the US & Gulf States**
 - \$5.5 Billion CWA penalty
 - \$4.4 Billion plus interest to Trust Fund
 - Payable over 15 years
 - Consent Decree must be approved by court



Bucket 2 Requirements

Council to restore the Gulf “without regard to geographic location”

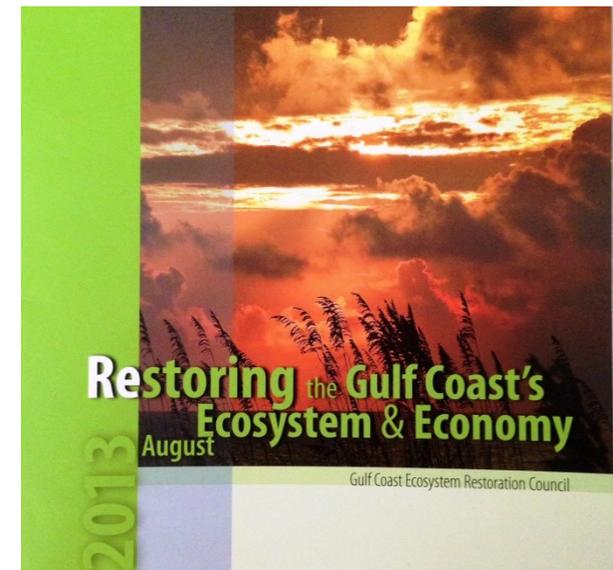
4 Priority Criteria from the Act:

- Greatest contribution to restoring & protecting natural resources
- Large-scale
- Build upon existing restoration plans or programs
- Long-term resilience to areas most impacted by the DWH oil spill



Goals of the Initial Comprehensive Plan

1. Restore and Conserve Habitat
2. Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
4. Enhance Community Resilience
5. Restore and Revitalize the Gulf Economy



Published August 2013



FPL Development Process

November 2014: Members submitted up to 5 proposals

50 proposals with 380 “Components” submitted

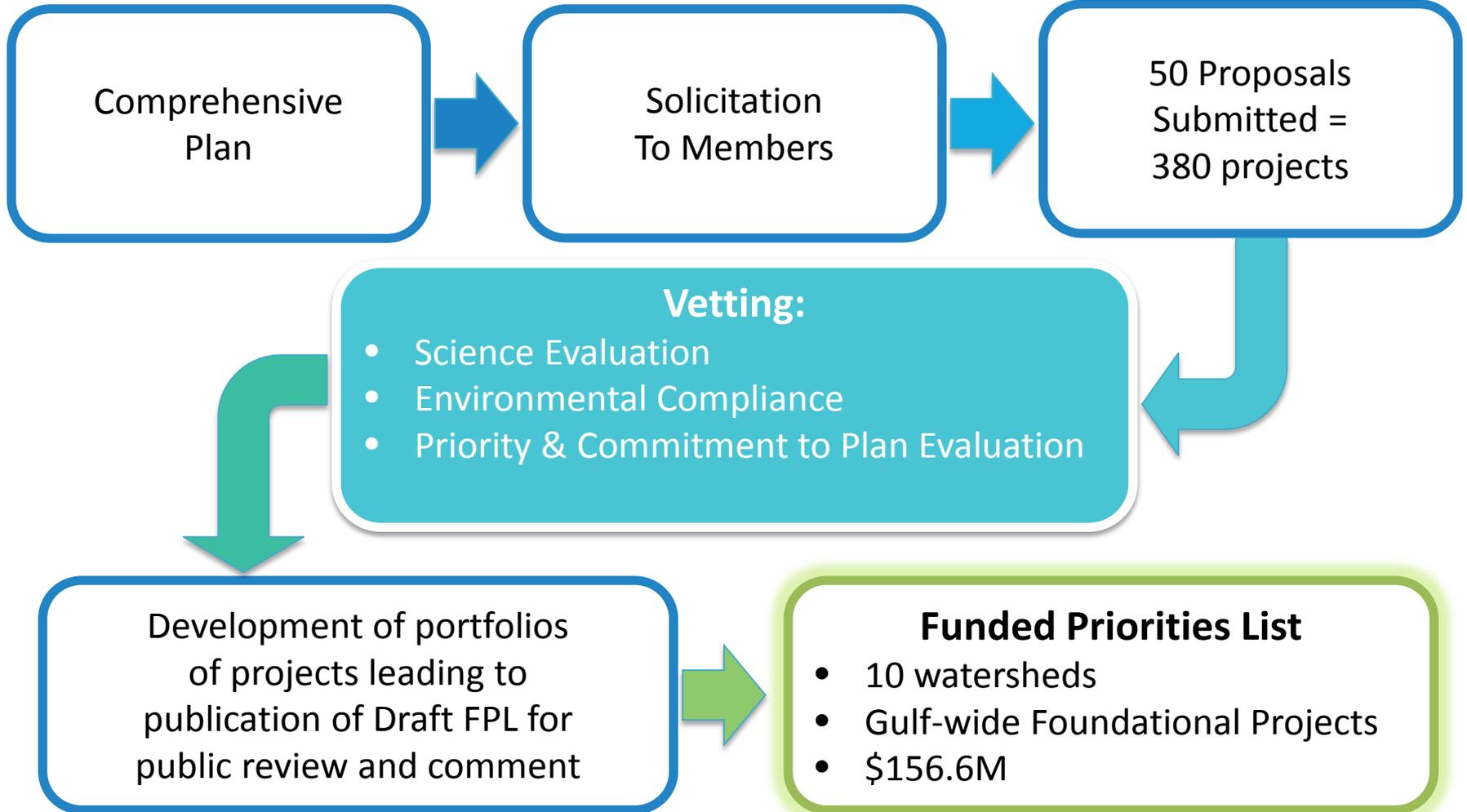
All proposals & “Context Reports” posted on web

Projects Evaluated:

- Eligibility
- Budget
- Consistency with Act and Comp Plan
- Best Available Science
- Environmental Compliance



FPL Development Process (cont.)





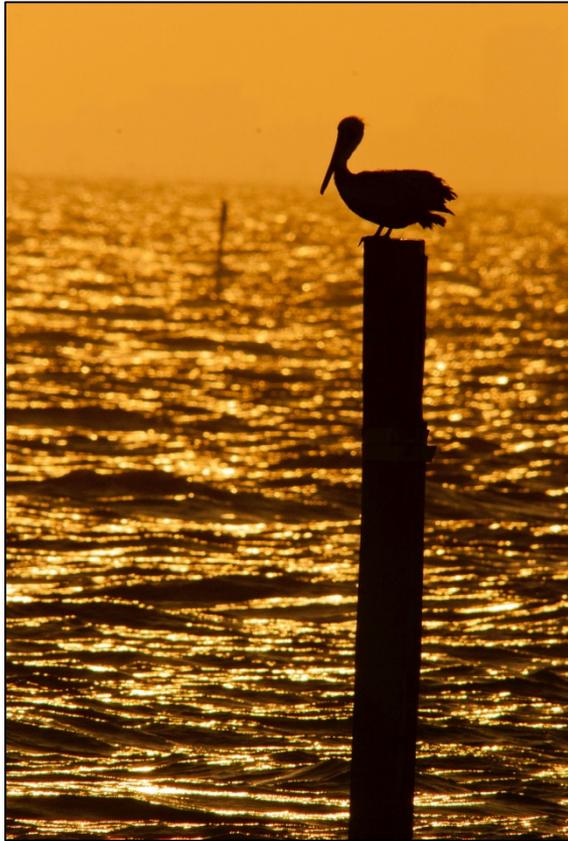
Previous Public Meetings on Draft FPL

- Available for comment from August 13 through September 28, 2015.
- 7 Public meetings and a Tribal engagement session.





Draft FPL Public Input



Robert Smith/Photobiologist.com

- **Vast majority of public comments were supportive**
- **Public comments focused on:**
 - Watershed/Estuary Approach
 - Implementation-Ready Projects
 - Habitat Conservation
 - Water Quality and Quantity
 - Science and Monitoring
 - Specific Projects and Programs
 - Comprehensive Plan Update



Initial Funded Priorities List – December 2015



Photo courtesy of the State of Florida

- **\$156.6m in restoration activities**
 - 10 key watersheds
 - Gulf-wide programs
 - Foundational
 - Highly-Leveraged
- **Prioritizes 12 activities for possible future funding (\$26.6m)**



Looking Forward

In 2016, the Council will:

- Consider amending the Initial FPL to include more implementation-ready projects
- Begin issuing grants and interagency agreements for FPL activities
- ***Review Initial Comprehensive Plan & FPL process/initiate the update of the Comprehensive Plan***



Path Forward

- **Two Components:**
 - Member Feedback
 - Public/Stakeholder Webinars
- Today the Council is seeking your feedback on questions that review the work done up until now
- Council staff will evaluate member and public input for use in future FPL processes



FPL Process

- How would you characterize the Council's FPL development process? [\(Select one\)](#)
 - Adequate for future FPLs/no change needed
 - Minor adjustments needed
 - Major overhaul needed
- What are some areas where the FPL process could have been improved?
[\(Please select all that apply\)](#)
 - Project development
 - Best Available Science
 - Public input/transparency
 - Project selection
 - No improvement needed



FPL Process (continued)

- The Council used a watershed- and estuary-based approach for this FPL. Should the Council use this approach for future FPLs? [\(Select one\)](#)
 - Yes
 - No
 - Other
- In the future, what factors should Council members consider as they develop proposals? [\(Please select all that apply\)](#)
 - Integration with other Gulf restoration programs
 - Opportunities for larger-scale restoration
 - Areas of greatest ecosystem need
 - Opportunities to partner with other Council members
 - Other



Public Engagement

- Was the process for involving the public in the FPL process effective?
(Select one)
 - Yes
 - No
 - Partially
- What other actions could have been taken to create a more open and transparent process? (Please select all that apply)
 - More time for public review of the draft FPL
 - Additional opportunities for public review and comment
 - More effective writing and on-line materials
 - Other



Science & Measuring Success

- How would you characterize the Council's science review process? [\(Select one\)](#)
 - Adequate for future FPLs/no change needed
 - Minor adjustments needed
 - Major overhaul needed
 - Unsure/No opinion

- How could the process be improved? [\(Please select all that apply\)](#)
 - More effective reviewer questions
 - Score/rank projects scientifically, e.g., high, medium, low
 - Use an Expert Panel or Committee
 - More effectively identify potential project interactions
 - Unsure/No opinion



Science & Measuring Success (Cont.)

- How should the Council show its work has been effective?

(Please select all that apply)

- Measure success at the project level
(e.g. # of acres created, acres of oyster reef, etc.)
- Measure cumulative impacts of projects at a larger scale
(e.g. watershed, estuary, or ecoregion, etc.)
- Other



Other...

- What important question(s) have not been asked?
- What key lesson is missing?



Webinar Feedback

- Do you like this webinar and polling format for providing feedback on Council activities?
 - ___ Yes
 - ___ No
 - ___ Other

Thank You

For More Information Visit:
www.RestoreTheGulf.gov

