

**Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council
Public Meeting for Draft Comprehensive Plan Update**

Webinar – Sept. 8, 2016

Principals:

Justin Ehrenwerth (Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council)

Additional Support: Jessica Henkel, Alyssa Dausman, John Ettinger, Buck Sutter, Jamie Lipsey, Jean Cowan, Heather Young

The meeting started at 5:00 p.m. and lasted approximately 40 minutes. There were approximately 64 people in attendance, not including Council staff and support.

Introductory remarks:

Justin Ehrenwerth provided a PPTX overview of the draft Comprehensive Plan Update.

The public comment began at approximately 5:22 p.m. and lasted about 15 minutes. Justin Ehrenwerth then gave closing remarks.

Public comments (4 commenters):

Ronald Anderson, Lower Colorado River Authority:

The leverage requirement seems to favor wealthier applicants who can afford a large contribution. Is there an option for applicants with less resources to contribute but still have a good proposal

Elizabeth Barber, Barber and Mann, Inc.:

Great presentation and update to the plan. Could you describe how you envision coordinating with other DWH funding sources such as the NFWF GEBF? If there is a project that may be leveraged from both Bucket 2 and NFWF - how would that work, since the 2 funds have different timelines?

Dan Dealy, DSD Services Group:

A 10 year plan - or "strategy" is highly visionary and a bold step for a council comprised of diverse political organizations. The Council is to be applauded for taking such an action, recognizing that implementation of restoration actions may not have recognizable and fully measurable results for many years.

Justin - in your verbal presentation you mentioned "exploring creative FINANCING" while the slide bullet uses the words "..creative FUNDING" - While these may be the same to some people, they are different. Will you clarify as the plan is developed?

Enhancing coordination across funding sources and organizations is a valuable and appropriate mechanism to accomplish both large AND small scale project objectives. Recommend the Council aggressively seek to collaborate with states for eligible projects in Pots 1 & 3 - and seek to increase project opportunities across state boundaries.

Adra Wilcox, Houston Advanced Research Center:

Good afternoon. Regarding the announcements of selections of projects and start dates of such projects, having specified dates of selection and start dates would help with proposal planning. For example, in restoring habitat, if specific plant species would require planting in fall or spring, knowing the probable start date would help the submitter coordinate tasks within projects.