

GOMA Federal Working Group Call Notes
11.20.14

Participants:

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Agenda:

RESTORE Treasury– Laurie McGilvray

- Gulf Coast Restoration Office w/in Treasury is new as is the RESTORE Act. Laurie is director of the Office of Gulf Coast Restoration. Will handle COE grants. Includes awards team, compliance team, communications, etc.
- Direct Component involves 4 states, 23 FL counties, and 20 LA parishes as well as the COEs for the 5 Gulf States
- Treasury issued interim final regs in August 2014 and the office has been busy providing info and training
- Transocean has made 2 of three deposits into Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. Info on website includes current \$\$ allocated to state counties, parishes across the 5 buckets as of June 30th. Are currently re-calculating to reflect interest.
- Direct Component
 - Guidance is on website, but key aspects include the following:
 - Eligible recipients include Alabama Gulf Coast Recovery Council, MS DEQ, TX Office of the Governor, LA CPRA, 20 LA parishes, and 23 Florida Counties
 - Eligible activities include restoration and protection of natural resources, fisheries, habitat, etc, infrastructure, flood protection, workforce development, planning assistance, etc.
 - First step is to develop a multi-year plan. Treasury has pulled together a format for the plan, which must undergo public review and comment. Treasury will

review plans for completeness and conformance with regulations. Treasury accepts plans but does not approve plans.

- Once jurisdiction has a plan, they can apply for funding. Announcements went out in September. Can apply to use direct component funds to serve as match on another federal award. That's unique. Will remain open until March 31, 2015. One exception is that can apply for planning assistance to develop a multi-year plan.
 - 1 special requirement for LA parishes. Chief Exec of the parish needs to certify to governor that parish has completed a comprehensive land use plan. As of November, 13 parishes have met requirements, Received 2 more, 5 parishes have not submitted anything.
 - Projects should be based on best available science which is defined as science that maximizes quality and integrity of info, uses peer-reviewed data, and clearly documents risks and uncertainties.
 - Projects must be carried out in Gulf Coast region, defined as the coastal zone, lands held in public trust, and adjacent land w/in 25 miles of the coastal zone.
- Centers of Excellence
 - Established at state level.
 - Disciplines of focus include coastal sustainability, restoration; fisheries, offshore energy, resilient development, etc.
 - States should have rules/policies published for comment for a minimum of 45 days. Need to give priority to consortia that have broadest cross-section of participants
 - Funding opp is posted. States should choose at least 1 of the 5 disciplines
 - Again, treasury reviews apps for eligibility and completeness.
 - In terms of status, LA selected TWIG; TX has competitive solicitation; Florida is out for public comment; MS and AL are looking at regs to see if they have met requirements.
 - No apps received to date from COEs

Questions:

1. Use grant solutions.gov for both Direct Component and COE? Yes. Are you capturing shape file info for grants? No we are not. It's a topic of conversation. Treasury doesn't have a lot of GIS capability. Just asking for jpgs of maps and lat/long info for projects. Laura will add Laurie to announcement list for upcoming webinar.
2. As you engage with local governments in FL and LA, are there requirements that funds be spent within the boundaries of those jurisdictions or can they use \$\$ to partner with others. A: Projects have to be in Gulf Coast region. This has come up in LA..the question of multi-parish projects. Mechanics are challenging b/c we can only make grants directly to recipients under Direct Component. There are requirements in LA that they may not be able to give \$\$ from one parish to another. Will be challenging to do multi-jurisdiction projects but not impossible.

GOMA Updates by Laura Bowie

- GOMA sent a survey to stakeholders to PITs, state leads, FWG, NGOs, members of business advisory council, listserv, academics, etc.
- Received good info from survey that informed the AMT conversation on role of GOMA, what are the issues in the region, etc.
- Team re-org includes water resources (MS), habitat (LA), community resilience (MS), data and monitoring (FL), wildlife and fish (TX), education and engagement (AL). 4 of these are technical

and 2 are functional (education and data) that will assist other teams get info and data/products out to users.

- There are some cross-PIT focus areas that include conservation, restoration and resilience planning; marine debris, and ecosystem services valuation. These need participation from multiple teams.
- Next Steps
 - Looking toward AP 3 that will be signed by all 5 state governors.
 - PIT re-org from Jan-May and reaching out to new stakeholders
 - Develop action items in June 2015
 - AP 3 by Fall 2015.
 - State AMT leads will talk to governors to increase awareness of priorities and coming AP.
 - Will have a 2015 Blueprint (4-6 pages)
 - 2015 All Hands will be at IP Casino in Biloxi June 16-18.
 - Will have half-day plenary and then break out into PITs to discuss new priority issues.
 - Hope to announce Gulf Star Partnership and celebrate partners.
 - PITs should also develop plans for submitting proposals to Gulf Star Partnership
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Questions:

- 1) How will this be communicated to PITs? A: Giving this presentation to existing PITs over next 2 months so everyone is aware. Hope to have blueprint out the door in the new year. Now accepting volunteers for a small committee to help recruit folks and get the word out about these changes. Having a conference call at first of December. **Todd will send announcement out to FWG members. Diane is volunteering from EPA.**
- 2) How do you see cross-PIT areas functioning logistically? A: We had to assign each Cross PIT item to a team to lead and work out the logistics. Maybe we need to set aside time for cross-PIT action items. **Kim Albins will help plan this.**
- 3) As a cross-PIT will oil spill research be added? We don't have anything here related to natural and/or man-made disasters. Maybe this could be the cross-PIT focus. A: Made note of comment yesterday. Can't add or take away from this too much w/o approval from AMT. Will follow up on it.
- 4) There's such a big emphasis on survey responses in uniting Gulf states on responding to climate change, but it's not a focus. How did this play out? A: Marine Planning and Climate were both on the table. For climate change, those words are sensitive. Not ignoring climate change, but we won't call it out either. Marine Planning is in the parking lot right now b/c we will have a meeting with stakeholders in the region to determine if it's a priority for all 5 states. If not, it doesn't make the cut for a GOMA priority.