

**FLORIDA TRUSTEE IMPLEMENTATION GROUP PHASE V.3 FLORIDA COASTAL ACCESS PROJECT  
RESTORATION PLAN AND SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION SCRIPT, JULY 18, 2019**

**Slide 1: Florida Coastal Access Project Draft Phase V.3 Restoration Plan Public Meeting Navarre, Florida, July 18, 2019**

Good Evening - My name is Jim Reynolds, and I will be serving as tonight's facilitator for the Florida Phase V.3 Restoration Plan public meeting. If everyone would find a seat and silence your cell phones, we can proceed. Please take any conversations into the hall or outside to keep the noise level down and to respect your fellow participants. We are here tonight to hear from you. We will be recording this meeting to make sure your words are accurately captured. As you came in, you were asked to fill out a blue card (hold up the card). This card gives us a record of attendance and lets us know if you want to be called on to make a public comment. There is also a project fact sheet that provides more information on the projects we will be discussing tonight. If you would like to make a public comment tonight on the microphone, and have not completed a blue card, we ask that you do that. These blue cards ensure we properly acknowledge your comment in the public record. Is there anyone who has not filled out a blue card? If so, please raise your hand. If later on tonight, you change your mind and decide you would like to make a comment, but you did not indicate this on your blue card, just raise your hand, and we'll get another card to you. This way we will know to call your name during the comment period, and you will know when to come forward. Now that we have those housekeeping items out of the way, I'd like to explain the format of tonight's meeting. This meeting will be much like Natural Resource Damage Assessment (or NRDA) meetings held in the past in Florida —there will be two parts. First, is the presentation, which will provide you with more detail on NRDA in Florida and then introduce the draft plan. The second and most important portion of tonight's meeting provides you with an opportunity to come forward and to give your comments. So please be thinking about what it is that you would like the Florida Trustee Implementation Group, also known as the FL TIG, to know that represents you individually or the organization that you're representing. If you leave tonight, and after further thought decide you would like to submit a comment, please remember you can do so until July 22. To summarize, there are multiple ways to get your comment into the public record. You can come up and do it verbally during the upcoming comment portion of tonight's meeting, you can take one of these forms and mail it in, you can go online to DOI's on-line PEPC system and electronically submit your comments, or you can give us your formal written testimony and we'll help you get it into the record. Finally, you'll see on the project fact sheet handout and on upcoming slides, we give you a web address where you can submit your comments and a PO Box where you can mail in your written comments. Now I'd like to call Dianne Ingram to the podium for part I of tonight's meeting. Dianne is a member of the Florida TIG and is the Representative for the Department of the Interior, or DOI in the NRDA process.

**Slide 2: Tonight's Agenda**

I'd like to thank all of you for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this very important meeting. This evening we will be talking about Natural Resource Damage Assessment, more commonly

referred to as NRDA. NRDA is a scientific assessment of the natural resource injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill - both environmental and lost recreational use of Gulf resources. As part of the NRDA process, Trustees also undertake restoration planning and implementation of their selected restoration projects. During tonight's presentation we will talk a little about the NRDA process. But what we are here to primarily talk about tonight is Florida's Draft Phase V.3 Restoration Plan. This will include an overview of the proposed project. After we conclude the presentation, you will have the opportunity to make comments on the draft plan and the proposed project.

### **Slide 3: What is NRDA?**

The NRDA process is a mandatory **legal process – based on the Oil Pollution Act** – that the federal agencies and affected states implement after an oil spill. It is a process the Natural Resource Trustee agencies use to assess the degree to which natural resources and the services they provide may have been injured by an oil spill and spill response activities. They then determine how to compensate the public through on-the-ground restoration activities. The goal is to restore injured resources to the condition they would have been in had the spill not occurred and provide compensation for interim losses of resources and resource services.

### **Slide 4: NRDA Process**

NRDA is the process used by the Trustees to: develop the public's claim for natural resource damages against the parties responsible for a spill and to seek restoration or compensation for the harm done to natural resources and the services provided by those resources. When we say injury we not only mean the environmental injuries caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and associated response activities but also the injuries which affected public use and enjoyment of many of the natural resources across the Gulf. Therefore, it is important to remember that NRDA not only assesses ecological injury, but also loss of recreational use of those resources because of the spill. So, the NRDA process includes an assessment of the injury, restoration planning generally to determine what needs to be done to restore the natural resources, determining the cost of those needed restoration activities and finally, assessing and seeking monetary damages from the polluter to pay for restoration.

### **Slide 5: Deepwater Horizon Settlement**

You may already know about the settlement agreement with BP. That settlement includes \$8.8 billion in damages to be paid by BP over 15 years to address the natural resource damages and loss of use caused by the BP oil spill. The \$8.8 billion includes approximately \$1 billion already committed for early restoration. We are still obligated to complete the actions we committed to during early restoration even as we are planning for final restoration. In conjunction with the BP settlement the NRDA Trustees also prepared a Programmatic Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan (PDARP), that presented the Trustees' oil spill injury assessment and considered the environmental impacts of proposed restoration alternatives. The PDARP was programmatic in nature. The draft plan we are considering tonight contains a specific restoration project that is consistent with the goals and objectives outlined in the PDARP for restoring natural resources, and the services they provide, that were injured from the oil spill.

**Slide 6: Deepwater Horizon Settlement** (continued)

Total Florida allocation of restoration funds from the BP settlement is approximately \$680 million, which is spread over the 5 restoration goals shown on this graphic. Restore and conserve habitat goal – \$38M. Shown in dark blue. Restore water quality – \$335M. Shown in orange. Replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources - \$93M. Shown in green. Provide and enhance recreational opportunities – \$184M. Show in red. Monitoring and adaptive management, administrative oversight -\$30M. Shown in light blue.

**Slide 7: Restoration Type Allocation**

Here is another way to look at the funding. These numbers come from of the PDARP that was mentioned earlier that is the guiding document for DWH spill restoration. Again, total Florida allocation of restoration funds from the BP settlement is approximately \$680 million, including just over \$144M allocated to 32 early restoration projects. I'd like to draw your attention to the 4 restoration goals outlined in red and the 9 Restoration Type outlined in yellow to which these restoration funds are allocated in the FL restoration area. There are also \$30 million in administrative and monitoring funds not shown on this slide.

**Slide 8: Trustee Council Structure**

This graphic shows the Post Settlement Structure of the Trustee Council. The Trustee Council now serves in an oversight role. The settlement, and legal documents associated with it, established restoration areas, one for each state and one for each, the Open Ocean and Region-wide Restoration Areas. To get the work done for each restoration area, teams were set up, these teams are called Trustee Implementation Groups, or (TIGs). For example, the FL restoration area has a FL TIG. The work of developing individual restoration projects now falls on these teams or TIGs.

**Slide 9: FL TIG**

The Florida Trustee Implementation Group is composed of the agencies shown on the screen. Representatives from these agencies work together to ensure that the pre- and post-settlement restoration goals of the Trustees are met. Representatives from each agency are here tonight.

**Slide 10: Florida Coastal Access Project**

The Florida Coastal Access Project was initiated during the fifth and final phase of what was early restoration to partially compensate for recreational use loses in Florida that resulted from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The project is intended to enhance public access to surrounding natural resources and to increase recreational opportunities. This project is being implemented in multiple phases. The FL TIG has completed the first and second phases of the Florida Coastal Access Project. We will briefly review and provide an update on the first and second phases, which were approved in 2016 and 2018, and then present the project alternative proposed for the third phase, described in the Phase V.3 draft restoration plan being discussed tonight.

**Slide 11: Florida Coastal Access Project**

Approximately \$45.4M has been allocated for land acquisition and improvements to enhance recreational uses as part of the Florida Coastal Access Project. The project has been accomplished via acquisition and/or enhancement of coastal parcels in the Florida Panhandle through a partnership with the Trust for Public Land. The Trust for Public Land oversees the acquisition and construction if applicable and then donates the property to the relevant city or county for operation as a public park.

**Slide 12: Florida Coastal Access Project**

This map highlights the current Phase V project locations (shown in orange) and the location of the proposed action we'll be discussing tonight, the Navarre Beach Marine Park addition (shown in purple).

**Slide 13: Florida Coastal Access Project**

The first and second phases of the Florida Coastal Access project included the acquisition of and improvements at 5 coastal properties along the Florida Panhandle and cost approximately \$40.4 million.

**Slide 14: Phase V Project Update**

The estimated costs and permit and construction status for each of the 5 coastal properties from the first and second phases are summarized on this slide. The current estimated costs are higher than the original estimates presented in the Phase V and V.2 plans. As noted on the slide, the construction of the park amenities has begun at Innerarity Point Park, Captain Leonard Destin Park, and Lynn Haven Bayou Park and Preserve. The Island View Park was substantially completed in August 2018, but was destroyed by Hurricane Michael on October 10, 2018. Franklin County, the owner of Island View Park, is seeking Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement to reconstruct the amenities.

**Slide 15: Phase V.3 Preferred Alternative**

As noted previously, the goal of the Florida Coastal Access Project is to enhance public access to surrounding natural resources and to increase recreational opportunities. The Phase V.3 plan tiers from the Phase V plan. Through the restoration screening processes, other reasonable alternatives were considered and are described in the Phase V plans. Based on the results of those screening processes, the FL TIG identified implementation of the Navarre Beach Marine Park Addition as the preferred alternative for the third phase of the Florida Coastal Access Project. This alternative includes the acquisition of a coastal parcel, a private inholding within Navarre Beach Marine Park in Santa Rosa County. No recreational amenities are proposed as part of this project.

**Slide 16: Next Steps**

The public comment period for the Draft Phase V.3 plan will close on July 22, 2019. The Florida TIG will then review and consider all comments received and finalize the plan. Projects selected by the Florida TIG in the final plan will then proceed to implementation. Thank you again for attending this meeting. Now to hand the meeting back over to Jim Reynolds to facilitate the rest of the meeting.

### **Slide 17: FL TIG Trustees & Representatives**

At this time I'd like to introduce members of our listening table who are both federal and state Trustee representatives (Phil Coram, FL DEP; Gareth Leonard, FWCC; Dianne Ingram, DOI; Amy Newbold, USEPA; Ron Howard, USDA; Laurie Rounds and Stella Wilson, NOAA).

I'd like to remind everyone that while you are making verbal comments, we will not be responding to the comments tonight. We will take all of the comments into consideration and will respond to the comments in the final plan. In order to make a verbal comment, you need to let us know in advance of coming forward -- is there anyone who would like to get their names on the list at this time who did not say yes when you signed in on the blue card? Okay. What I will do is call individuals up two at a time. When the first person is speaking, the second person will simply stand behind the individual speaking. We may have to limit the speakers to three minutes. Some people have driven many miles to be here tonight and we want to give everyone who wishes to speak the opportunity to do so. We will provide you with a reminder if you approach this time limit. I thank you in advance for respecting the three-minute rule. Please state your name and if you are representing an organization, please state the name of the organization prior to making your comments.

### **Slide 18: Submit Your Comments**

Would anyone else like to make a verbal comment at this time? I want to remind you again that July 22 is the deadline for comments. [www.GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov](http://www.GulfSpillRestoration.noaa.gov) is that website. I also want to remind you about the handout. The handout includes additional details and information on all of the ways you can submit comments. If you haven't already, please pick one up on your way out. Again, you can make comments tonight either verbally, written, or online on the computer. You can mail your comments to the address on the screen, or you can visit the website that's listed on the screen to make your comments through July 22. Thank you all for your attendance and participation. I am now going to formally close tonight's meeting.