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GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: St. Joseph Bay Water Quality Study

Submitting Entity: Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves

I. Please select one or more eligible activity that the project is classified under:

- Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.
- Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.
- Workforce development and job creation.
- Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.
- Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.
- Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.
- Planning assistance.
- Promotion of tourism and seafood in the Gulf Coast region.

II. Please provide an executive summary of the project. Describe/quantify the economic (jobs, infrastructure, tourism, etc.) and environmental benefits (habitat, quality, knowledge, long-term sustainability, etc.).

This project will examine site specific information in regards to the establishment of numeric nutrient criteria for St. Joseph Bay. The primary purpose of the proposed numeric nutrient criteria is to protect healthy, well-balanced natural populations of flora and fauna from the effects of excess nutrient enrichment. This project will examine the recently designated "maintain existing conditions" approach that was used for developing the numeric nutrient criteria and continue to monitor water quality in the bay to develop a better understanding of the bay's water quality to maintain and/or improve water quality while providing for the safety and enjoyment of those who use the marine resources. This project will identify potential sources of pollution in St. Joseph Bay and develop a plan to effectively evaluate the impacts. A report will be reproduced with recommendations that support scientific data.

- III. Please provide a cost summary/budget. Detail any matching/cooperative funds available for use, and any cooperative support from governmental or other agencies.

Estimated Cost:

Water quality monitoring in partnership with U of F's <i>Coastwatch</i> program (monitoring/data report/lab fees/support)	\$100,000.00
Educational brochures/workshops	\$10,000
Total Cost.....	\$ 110,000.00

Possible partners and other organizations offering cooperative support include, but are not limited to: Gulf County, including the Gulf County Tourist Development Council (TDC); the University of Florida; Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP); the Florida Division of Aquaculture (FDACS), and the Northwest Florida Water Management District (NFWFMD).

- IV. Please provide a timeline for project completion. Explain the technical and environmental feasibility (including any permitting considerations) of the project.

This project is expected to be completed within 24 months.

- V. Please provide the qualifications of the Submitting Entity, the financial feasibility/sustainability and the economic feasibility and sustainability of the project (probability of success, etc.).

The Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves is a not-for-profit Citizen Support Organization (CSO) that has been in existence for over nine years. It was established to protect, preserve and support the St. Joseph Bay State Buffer Preserve and the St Joseph Bay Aquatic Preserve. The Friends raise funds and provide volunteer services to help manage the Preserves and foster better understanding and enjoyment of the Buffer Preserve and the Bay. With a current membership of nearly 200 individuals and families, and annual visitors during our Fall and Winter Bay Day events alone totaling over 700, the probability of success for this

project is great. Donations received from the many tourists and local visitors to the Lodge, especially during Bay Day events, will insure the sustainability of education and outreach components of this project.

- VI. Please provide the anticipated results of the project, and whether it is included in a City of Port St. Joe, City of Wewahitchka or Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan?

This project, when completed, will produce a report assessing the status and trends of water quality throughout St. Joseph Bay and will identify potential impacts to the natural resources. Sound scientific data and recommendations on methods to eliminate impacts to the system's water quality for current and future use will be presented. A model will be developed that will include additional scientific data on the potential response of the bay to an increase in pollutants. This information will aid in ensuring the sustainability of scallop, fish, benthic invertebrates, coral, saltmarsh, and seagrass habitat which in-turn will help sustain eco-tourism in this region of the panhandle.

The following Goal(s), Objective(s) and/or Policies included in the *Gulf County Comprehensive and Mitigation Plan* will be met, in part, by this project:

Chapter 1: Land Use Element

POLICY 1.1.9 (c): *To promote the protection of wetlands and surface water resources in all coastal, inland riverine and isolated wetlands.....The County shall: require the use of vegetated buffer zones adjacent to wetlands and surface waters consistent with the following standards herein and as prescribed in Future Land Use Element 1.1.10 and 2.2.1.*

Chapter 5: Coastal Management Element

POLICY 1.1.5: *Gulf County will continue to promote a program of community awareness to prevent future disruptions and degradations of coastal resources.*

Chapter 6: Conservation Element

OBJECTIVE 1.3: *Gulf County will strive to conserve, appropriately use, and protect the quality and quantity of current and projected water sources and waters that flow into estuarine waters or oceanic waters by implementing Policies 1.3.1 through 1.3.9.*

OBJECTIVE 1.4: *Gulf County will conserve, appropriately use, and protect its natural resources, including fisheries, wildlife, wildlife habitat, marine habitat, minerals, soils, and native vegetative communities by implementing Policies 1.4.1 through 1.4.11.*

POLICY 1.4.4: *Gulf County will cooperate with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, and the Northwest Florida Water Management District to provide the fullest protection to County, State, and Federally-owned areas identified in the conservation and recreation elements that have been set aside for the protection of natural resources and public recreation.*

Chapter 7: Recreation and Open Space Element

GOAL 1: *To provide recreational opportunities and open space for the current and future residents and visitors of Gulf County.*

OBJECTIVE 1: *Gulf County will ensure that publicly-owned recreation facilities are physically accessible to all County residents by implementing Policies 1.1 through 1.4.*

Submitted By:



President, Board of Directors

2-26-13

Signature

Title

Date

Friends of the St Joseph Bay Preserves
Company Name

3915 Highway C 30
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Port St Joe, FL 32456
Address

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Telephone Number

ehrman.john@yahoo.com
E-mail Address (if applicable)

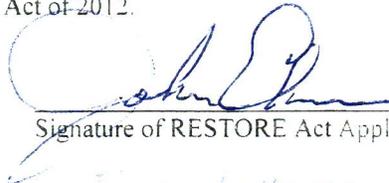
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)

900 SOUTH GONZALEZ STREET • PO BOX 712 • PACE CITY, FLORIDA 32450
PHONE: (904) 276-6144 • FAX: (904) 276-0252 • E-MAIL: info@restoreact.com

**PUBLIC RECORDS POLICY AND PUBLIC ACCESS ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR
GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT APPLICANTS**

I, JOHN L. HANSEN the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity BOARDS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled WATER QUALITY hereby acknowledge, consent and accept the following representations that coincide with my/our submission for consideration, evaluation and possible recommendation and approval by the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for funding from the RESTORE Act distribution that strictly complies with the guidelines and regulations set forth under the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012:

1. I/We am the authorized representative of the application pre-proposal referenced above.
2. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Gulf County Public Records policy.
3. I/We have thoroughly reviewed and familiarized myself and/or my entity on which I have submitted the application/pre-proposal on behalf of with the entirety of the Florida Statute Chapter 119 which controls and permits public access to information.
4. I/We hereby acknowledge, consent and agree to the controlling policies and statutes above as well as the free and open exchange of any and all submissions provided hereunder this application/pre-proposal and all information exchanged hereafter including but not limited to further amendments to these proposals as well as surveys, studies, research, data production, books, drawings, property records, work papers, county owner lists, files, forms, reports, accounts, documents, manuals, handbooks, instructions, printouts relating in any manner for the production of the application. In addition, all papers, notes, data, reference material, documentation, programs, printouts, and all other media and forms of expression that in any way include, incorporate or reflect any confidential information of what ultimately shall become the Gulf County plans for use and application of the RESTORE Act funding.
5. I/We acknowledge, agree and fully consent to cooperate with the appointed Gulf County RESTORE ACT committee, county officials and staff as a continuing obligation and condition of final review for this RESTORE Act application/pre-proposal.
6. I/We have submitted this acknowledgment to Gulf County RESTORE Act Committee and the Gulf County Board of County Commissioners for the purpose and intent of receiving an evaluation, review and possible recommendations for anticipated funding from the Restoration and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act of 2012.


Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant
JOHN L. HANSEN
Printed Name

Date: 2/28/12