

RESTORE ACT Direct Component Multiyear Plan Narrative

Department of the Treasury

OMB Approval No. 1505-0250

Directions: Use this form for the Initial Multiyear Plan and any subsequent amendments to an accepted Multiyear Plan. For amendments, include only new and/or materially modified activities.

Multiyear Plan Version (Initial or Amendment Number):	03
Date of Initial Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	2/17/2017
Date of Last Multiyear Plan Acceptance:	12/21/2018

Eligible Applicant Name:	Gulf County Board of County Commissioners
Name and Contact Information of the Person to be contacted (POC) on matters concerning this Multiyear Implementation Plan:	
POC Name:	Clay Smallwood
POC Title:	Assistant County Administrator
POC Email:	csmallwood@gulfcounty-fl.gov
POC Phone:	850-229-6106

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

1. A description of each activity, including the need, purpose, objective(s), milestones and location. Include map showing the location of each activity.

It is the intention of the Board of County Commissioners and Staff of Gulf County, Florida to implement the (2) proposed projects in this MYP Amendment-03. The projects are expected to be performed during a 4-year period and may be completed in phases as funding becomes available.

Water System Improvements

Description: The Gulf County Water System provides water to more than 2,000 customers located in the southernmost areas of Gulf County (Cape San Blas, Indian Pass, Simmons Bayou, and Jones Homestead). Prior to Hurricane Michael, customers of this system were serviced by two production wells, both of which are located within a few hundred feet of the coastline. The storm surge from Hurricane Michael destroyed one well, causing the system to operate with only one production well from October 2018 to April 2021 causing issues with meeting demand, low pressures, etc. The County has re-constructed one well and repaired and improved the system, but continues to experience volume and pressure issues in addition to the risk of storm surge and future damage. The County has received grants to construct the inland water plant and booster station and portions of the transmission main. This project is seeking additional funding necessary to complete the transmission main connecting the booster station to the distribution system.

Need: The Gulf County Water System needs to be moved further away from the coastline in order to ensure that it is protected from natural disasters, like tropical storms and hurricanes. Customers were serviced by only one production well for roughly 30 months because of a hurricane putting one of the production wells out-of-service. Both wells are now operational, but the County continues to address issues regarding volume (quantity) and pressure needed to meet customer demands. Demand for more volume and better pressure continues to grow as the area rebuilds post Hurricane Michael.

Purpose: To construct water transmission lines connecting the proposed inland water system to existing costal service area. This will move the water source away from the coast to mitigate the risks associated with storm surge and saltwater intrusion.

Objective: The objective of this project is to construct water transmission lines that will connect the existing costal customers and move away from the coast and the threats of storm damage and flooding. This project will ultimately increase system capacity, resiliency, efficiency, enhance water quality, decrease flood hazards, and mitigate damage to sensitive habitats.

Milestones: 1) prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids for construction; 2) select contractor and award contract agreement; 3) complete construction.

Location: Please see attached map.

Airport Pre-Construction

Description: Gulf County currently has no means of airport transportation. However, the County experiences a high influx of tourists from March to September that increases the demand on our transportation systems and economy. A 2019 Pre-Feasibility Study indicated that airport development in Gulf County is feasible.

Need: The development of air transportation will kickstart the economic revitalization desperately needed for the County and region. The development of an airport in Gulf County compliments the roads and rail infrastructure that services the area. Additionally, the area being prone to hurricanes and other natural disasters increases the need for a centralized location to stage post-disaster recovery operations, supply needs, as well as having another avenue to evacuate residents and tourists.

Purpose: To design, permit and plan construction of an airport that would benefit the economy in Gulf County.

Objective: The objective of this project is to jumpstart Gulf County's economy through planning the development and construction of an airport that will add growth for the County through jobs and tourism. It will also provide an additional evacuation method from disasters and create a post-disaster recovery stage center. This project will cover the planning, design, permitting and other pre-construction needs for the future airport.

Milestones: 1) prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids for design and permitting; 2) select contractor and award contract agreement for design and permitting; 3) conduct design and permitting.

Location: Please see attached map.

Airport Construction

Description: Gulf County currently has no means of airport transportation. However, the County experiences a high influx of tourists from March to September that increases the demand on our transportation systems and economy. A 2019 Pre-Feasibility Study indicated that airport development in Gulf County is feasible.

Need: The development of air transportation will kickstart the economic revitalization desperately needed for the County and region. The development of an airport in Gulf County compliments the roads and rail infrastructure that services the area. Additionally, the area being prone to hurricanes and other natural disasters increases the need for a centralized location to stage post-disaster recovery operations, supply needs, as well as having another avenue to evacuate residents and tourists.

Purpose: To construct an airport that would benefit the economy in Gulf County. This funding would add economic growth, boost tourism, and add jobs to Gulf County residents.

Objective: The objective of this project is to jumpstart Gulf County's economy through development and construction of an airport that will add growth for the county through jobs and tourism. It will also provide an additional evacuation method from disasters and create a post-disaster recovery stage center. This project will cover the construction of the future airport and may be funded in phases. The County will also continue to seek other third-party construction funding.

Milestones: 1) prepare bid package meeting U.S. Treasury specifications and solicit bids for construction; 2) select contractor and award contract agreement; 3) complete construction.

Location: Please see attached map.

2. How the applicant made the multiyear plan available for 45 days for public review and comment, in a manner calculated to obtain broad-based participation from individuals, businesses, Indian tribes, and non-profit organizations, such as through public meetings, presentations in languages other than English, and postings on the Internet. The applicant will need to submit documentation (e.g., a copy of public notices) to demonstrate that it made its multiyear plan available to the public for at least 45 days. In addition, describe how each activity in the multiyear plan was approved after consideration of all meaningful input from the public and submit documentation (e.g., a letter from the applicant's leadership approving submission of the multiyear plan to Treasury or a resolution approving the applicant's multiyear plan).

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners reviewed and approved the proposed project list for the MYIP amendment at their regularly scheduled meeting on June 28, 2022 and revised the listed at their regularly scheduled meeting on January 24, 2023.

Public Comments were allowed as is per common practice at all County Commission Meetings. The proposed projects were developed based on public and stakeholder input in the initial MYIP process as well as matching projects proposed for the Restore Act and current needs for our area.

The document was made available to the public for review and comment from April 20, 2023 until June 4, 2023 (a 46-day period).

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners published NOTICE that the Draft MYIP was available for the Public's review and comment during the 45-day period at the following locations:

- Gulf County Administration Building located at 1000 Cecil G. Costin Sr. Blvd. Port St. Joe, FL 32456 and the Gulf County Courthouse, consecutively for 46 days.
- Gulf County RESTORE Act website: <https://www.gulfcountyrestore.com> and the main County website: <https://www.gulfcounty-fl.gov>
- The Star, the local news publication, <https://gulfcounty.news>
- Information packet posted for the BOCC meetings held April 25, 2023 and May 23, 2023.

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners accepted the MYIP Amendment-03, including each activity in the plan, and voted to approve it after consideration of public comments after the 46-day public comment period. The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners voted to approve the MYIP Amendment-03 on June 26, 2023. There were no public comments received during the 46-day public comment period.

3. How each activity included in the applicant's multiyear plan narrative meets all the requirements under the RESTORE Act, including a description of how each activity is eligible for funding based on the geographic location of each activity and how each activity qualifies for at least one of the eligible activities under the RESTORE Act.

Water System Improvements

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure projects benefitting the economy or ecological resources. Constructing a new water plant in a location that will mitigate issues such as flooding, saltwater intrusion, storm surge, etc., will provide the County with a water plant that is resilient, efficient, and enhance water quality.

Geographic Requirement: The new water plant would be located in Gulf County. Please see attached map.

Airport Pre-Construction

Primary Eligible Activity: Planning project that will lead to an infrastructure project that will benefit the economy of Gulf County.

Geographic Requirement: The new airport would be located in Gulf County. Please see attached map.

Airport Construction

Primary Eligible Activity: Infrastructure project benefitting the economy or ecological resources. Constructing a new airport will boost Gulf County's economy.

Geographic Requirement: The new airport would be located in Gulf County. Please see attached map.

4. Criteria the applicant will use to evaluate the success of the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative in helping to restore and protect the Gulf Coast Region impacted by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Water System Improvements

The performance measures that will be used to measure the success of the activity include:

- Number of linear feet of water transmission line created

Airport Pre-Construction

The performance measures that will be used to measure the success of the activity include:

- Confirmation of location & suitability
- Finalize Design
- Finalize permitting

Airport Construction

The performance measures that will be used to measure the success of the activity include:

- Number of customers/planes able to use the airport

5. How the activities included in the multiyear plan narrative were prioritized and list the criteria used to establish the priorities.

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners, with staff, and the County's RESTORE Act Committee and outside consultants, developed the initial MYIP for Gulf County. From the original list of proposed projects, (1) project was accepted in the initial MYIP submitted in 2017. The proposed projects in this MYIP Amendment include some of the projects proposed in the initial process, and further refined by the Board of County Commissioners and staff. As the Board of County Commissioners has moved through this process, project priorities have changed due to local factors and developed priorities. These priorities include new water infrastructure and airport access. While the BOCC remains committed to all projects originally outlined in the MYIP, need and necessity has required the Board to re-evaluate timing and priorities. The projects in this MYIP- Amendment #03 were prioritized and ratified by the Board of County Commissioners at the June 28, 2022, meeting and January 24, 2023.

6. If applicable, describe the amount and current status of funding from other sources (e.g., other RESTORE Act contribution, other third party contribution) and provide a description of the specific portion of the project to be funded by the RESTORE Act Direct Component.

Water System Improvements

The Direct Component funds will be used to cover construction activities as funds permit. The additional construction costs will be funded separately by Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) and Department of Environmental Protection Resilient Florida Grant. Gulf County did not receive funding from FEMA after Hurricane Michael hit in 2018 due to the County not owning the property at that time. Gulf County took ownership of the water system in November 2020. However, Gulf County has submitted three alternate projects to FEMA for enhancements to the water system that are separate from this project.

Airport Pre-Construction

The Direct Component funds will be used to cover the planning, design and permitting costs as funds permit. Other third-party funding is provided from Florida Appropriations 2022-2023 through the State of Florida Department of Transportation; grant agreement has been executed, and money has been bookmarked for this project.

Airport Construction

The Direct Component funds will be used to cover the construction activities as funds permit. Additional funding will continue to be sought from other third-party sources; Gulf County continuously searches for other funding sources. Gulf County is aware that this funding is not sufficient to complete the project and will not submit an application for funding until other funding has been secured to cover the rest of the project's budget.