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GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: **Restoration of Tupelo Forrest, Fish Hatchery and Oyster Bar Renourishment Project**

Submitting Entity: TAUNTON FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.

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

X Restoration and protection of the natural resources, ecosystems, fisheries, marine and wildlife habitats, beaches, and coastal wetlands of the Gulf Coast region.

X **Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife and natural resources.**

0 Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal or comprehensive conservation management plan, including fisheries monitoring.

X Workforce development and job creation.

X **Improvements to or on State parks located in coastal areas affected by the** Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

X Infrastructure projects benefiting the economy or ecological resources, including port infrastructure.

0 Coastal flood protection and related infrastructure.

X Planning assistance.

X 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 proposal would mitigate ongoing damage and begin a long term path towards restoration of our once magnificent Tupelo Forrest, fresh water fish hatchery and natural nourishment of area oyster beds. Estimated to be a three year project necessitated by working along with nature, 5 jobs would be created.

Effects would be long lasting, especially since the dredging process that caused the problem has been halted. Once properly restored, the majestic beauty and bountiful river swamp would once again draw many visitors to our area.

Tupelo Honey and Apalachicola Bay Oysters have one thing in common, a

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silent partner that has fed them for centuries. One of the largest Tupelo Gum flats in the world, rich with nutrients that slowly make their way down river to Apalachicola Bay Oyster beds, lies along the east bank of the Chipola Cut-Off River in the Honeyville, Dalkeith area.

For centuries this mud flat has been fed by two major tributaries, Maddox Slough and Gum Drift Slough. Their swift currents not only supplied the area with an abundance of fish and accompanying wild-life, but also carried nutrients from these muddy flats back into the river and on to Apalachicola Bay.

Over the past half century these two sloughs have been all but completely destroyed. The purpose of this project is to mitigate and actually reverse this on-going damage by restoring Maddox and Gum Drift Sloughs to their once healthy state and in the process help salvage two of our areas most prominent products. Tupelo Honey and Apalachicola Bay Oysters.

An additional feature of this project is that it will help restore the habitat and beauty of early Creek and Seminole Indian Settlements.

What white pioneer settlers found when they came through our area with General Andrew Jackson in the early 1800's, native Creek and Seminole Indians had known for centuries. To truly trace our history we must go back beyond the Old St. Joe – Iola era to a time during which the natural beauty and attractions of this area were in their purest and most beautiful – bountiful state.

After all, many of what we consider early area pioneer families inter-married and otherwise co-mingled with these native Americans resulting in a sizeable portion of our areas population being part Indian and, consequently, tracing their ancestry back accordingly.

Area "old-timers" can remember when they too were captivated by the unmatched beauty of this majestic, vibrant swamp. This, sadly is no longer the case.

Our once beautiful swamp is either dead or in some stage of dying. The dominant fish in what is left of Maddox and Gum Drift Slough is the Gar (a trash fish). While the dominant foul is none other than the Buzzard!

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

Equipment		$200,000
Manpower (Labor & related expenses)		
5 Persons, 3 Years		
Project Director	$195,000	
1 @ $30 per hour	187,200	
1 @ $25 per hour	156,000	
2 @ $20 per hour	248,000	
Total		786,200
Engineering & Surveying		200,000
Insurance		40,000
Fuel & Supplies ($1,500 per week)		234,000
Repairs		75,000
Misc.		50,000
Sub-total		$1,385,200
Administrative Cost (2%)		27,704
Total Budget		$1,412,904

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

Once funding is assured, it is estimated that the engineering, surveying, permitting process will take approximately one year. Once work is authorized the project should be completed in three years.

This project should be environmentally feasible in that it is designed to correct an ongoing environmental disaster. Special care will be taken to work with forces of nature in a manner that requires a minimum amount of mechanical displacement of materials.

Other sources of funding will be sought after but, in the present state of the economy, are not promising.

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.).

Taunton Family Children's Home, Inc. has assets of over two million dollars. Its president and co-founder, David Taunton will be personally administering this project. (Taunton holds a PhD degree in administration from F.S.U.)

The Children's Home is located adjacent to the subject property which is in fact literally the back yard for the children as it has been for the Taunton Family for six generations. Consequently, the Children's Home has a vested interest in the success 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?

It is anticipated that upon completion, this area will once again be a tremendous natural asset, attracting visitors, restoring the native Indian habitat, help save the Tupelo honey industry, enrich area oyster beds, provide a perfect environment for a huge fresh water fish hatchery, and be filled with an abundance of fish and wildlife.

Furthermore, it is anticipated that local residents will be inspired to protect and preserve the beautiful swamp as the native Indians once did.

This project is not included on any Comprehensive Development Plan as it is in no shape, form or fashion a “Development”, but the opposite thereof!

Submitted By:

Signature

2/28/13
Date

TAUNTON FAMILY CHILDREN'S HOME, INC.
Company Name

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
GULF COUNTY, FLORIDA
RESTORE ACT COMMITTEE (R.A.C.)
1000 CECIL G. COSTIN SR. BLVD., ROOM 312, PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA 32456
PHONE (850)229-6144 • FAX (850) 229-9252 • EMAIL: tkopinsky@gulfcounty-fl.gov

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

I, David L. Taunton the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity Taunton Family Children's Home and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled Restoration of Tupelo Forest, Fish Hatchery & Oyster Bar 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.

David L. Taunton Date: 2/28/13
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

David L. Taunton
Printed Name