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# GULF COUNTY RESTORE ACT PROJECT PRE-PROPOSAL FORM

Project Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Preserving Tradition and Protecting the Future \_\_\_\_\_

Submitting Entity: \_\_\_\_\_ Gulf County School Board \_\_\_\_\_

**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.).**

Because Gulf School District experienced and is still experiencing a loss of revenue due to the reduced taxable value of property as a result of the BP oil spill, the ability to renovate buildings to enhance curriculum has been negatively impacted. Therefore, Gulf School District is proposing to utilize funds from the RESTORE ACT Project to renovate existing facilities at Port St. Joe High and Wewahitchka High Schools to house state of the art science laboratories with an adjoining classroom for implementing an integrated environmental science program to train students for careers and life styles that promote conservation and protection of Gulf County’s natural resources, ecosystems, marine and wildlife habitats. It is the

vision of the district to incorporate state approved curriculum standards into an integrated program that includes ecology, marine science, health science and technology which will afford our students the opportunity to study cyclic events and the domino effects of man-made as well as natural disasters on our environment.

Funds from the RESTORE ACT will be used to purchase equipment, materials and curriculums that give students the opportunity to participate in a program that not only prepares them for graduation requirements, but also gives them the opportunity to participate in short and long term environmental research projects utilizing high tech equipment. These projects may include but not be limited to the following: St. Joseph Bay marine and wildlife, the Gulf of Mexico marine life, marshlands and beaches, the Apalachicola River and the river's basin, wildlife growth and decline patterns, effects of our environment on human health, ways to identify and safely deal with negative environmental issues in each of Gulf County's ecosystems. The ultimate goal is to teach our students who are the future of Gulf County, to understand, appreciate, conserve and protect our environment so that the economy of Gulf County will grow and prosper.

The district already has a strong collaboration with Gulf Coast State College for dual enrollment courses. Because of our articulation agreement, we are able to offer environmental science and biology for dual enrollment credit. We will continue to expand our offerings to include health science, so that students participating in the program can receive dual credit as well as explore areas of personal interest. Funds from the RESTORE ACT will purchase college textbooks for dual enrolled science courses. This is a win/win for students, parents and our community in that students will experience many facets of science which may lead to fulfilling careers in Gulf County, receive college credit at no expense to the parent and become protectors and conservators of the environment. Gulf County is a rare jewel in the Panhandle of Florida in that it offers tourists a prime location for vacations, the fishermen and hunters a wildlife paradise, job seekers a growing economy, but best of all it gives local residents a sense of family and a safe, healthy environment in which to rear children. It is essential that we teach our children to preserve, protect, and wisely use what nature has provided for us.

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

Gulf School District will utilize state funds allocated based on student enrollment to provide instructors for the proposed integrated curriculum project and local funds for maintenance of facilities (since the state no longer provides any maintenance funds). Other operational costs such as utilities and custodial will be provided by the district.

**RESTORE Budget:**

Renovation: 4 classrooms to include heating/cooling, lighting, floors, wall cabinets, plumbing, eye wash stations, hazardous material showers, rewiring and additional electrical outlets, internet access, wireless access points  
1,000,000.00

Furniture: Locking storage cabinets for microscopes and for projects, 28 two-student Lab stations, Lab stools, teacher lab station and teacher stool, 50 classroom desks, display tables  
250,000.00

Equipment: 50 laptop computers, digital microscopes, scales, beakers, test tubes, slides, models, locking electrical storage cabinets for laptops, 50 IPADS and charging storage cabinets, 4 SMARTBOARDS/Promethean Boards, 4 display panels, 8 document cameras, 6 digital video cameras, 6 digital cameras, 50 graphing calculators, 4 projectors, display boards for science fairs, batteries  
6 presentation carts  
250,000.00

Software and textbooks: Microsoft Office Suite, Environmental, health, and marine science textbooks  
25,000.00

Staff Development: Integrating curriculum, teacher training with curriculum and software  
50,000.00

Transportation: Bus and driver for class field trips (6 minimum); 2 state approved minivans for small group field trips to collect water samples, specimens, fauna

75,000.00

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1,650,000.00

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

There are no technical or environmental feasibility studies that need to be made since renovations will take place inside the building. Other than putting in new heating and cooling systems for selected rooms, no permits will be required.

From the time the project is funded, it is anticipated that all aspects of the proposal will be in place within 18 months. A sample timeline follows:

Funded July 1, 2013

2013

July - Study school blueprints for best selection of rooms to be renovated

August - Begin renovations –Collaborate with GCSC dual enrollment liaison

September – Begin bid process for lab stations and cabinets

October - Continue renovations and complete bid process for stations and cabinets

November – Order lab stations and cabinets

December – Continue renovations

January - Wire for internet and wireless access and finalize renovations

February – Install lab tables and sink

March – Purchase lab equipment

April – Purchase computers, Smart Boards/Promethean boards inventory and disseminate to schools; register students for classes

May – Complete curriculum, plan teacher training

June – Teacher training, select and purchase instructional software, cameras for projects; Bid vans , purchase microscopes for students and teachers

July – Purchase vans, teachers select and district purchases basic research

materials

August – Start classes –Dual enroll students who qualify; Begin project selection

September – First field trip

October - Students and teachers continue project (mini-field trip)

November – Second field trip

December – Monitor program implementation, student progress; participate in the regional science fair (mini-field trip)

January – Begin second semester of secondary courses and dual enrollment

February – Third field trip

March - May – Complete projects and share results with fellow students, faculty and if and when appropriate with the school board.

- 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.).**

Gulf School District administers an annual budget of approximately 15,000,000.00. It is audited annually by the State of Florida Auditor General's office and reports of findings are submitted to the School Board and to FLDOE. The district is a high performing district and has been for four years. This is due to high academic achievement, adhering to class-size and having a clean financial report. It is governed by the Superintendent and a Board of Directors consisting of five members representing each designated district.

- 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?**

The anticipated results are multi-faceted and include:

- Knowledgeable youth who will conserve and protect Gulf County's environment;

- Youth who will engage in meaningful research projects that contribute to the understanding of the importance maintaining a healthy ecosystem;
- Understanding of the inter-relationship between man and environment and how to affect it positively rather than negatively;
- Developing critical thinking skills so that identifying and dealing with negative environmental issues are based on facts thus speeding up an appropriate and effective resolution; and
- Giving youth the opportunity to grow academically with challenging curriculum.

The project will be county-wide and include students in Port St. Joe and Wewahitchka.

**Submitted By:**

Sara Joe Wooten  
Signature

1/15/13  
Date

Gulf County School Board  
Company Name

150 Middle School Road  
Address

Port St. Joe, Florida 32456  
Address

850-229-6940  
Telephone Number

swooten@gulf.k12.fl.us  
E-mail Address (if applicable)

**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, Sara Joe Wooten the undersigned authority and/or representative of the entity Gulf County School Board and or the individual who has submitted the Gulf County RESTORE Act Proposal/Pre-Proposal titled Preserving Tradition and Protecting the Future 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.

Sara Joe Wooten  
Signature of RESTORE Act Applicant

Date: 1/16/13

Sara Joe Wooten  
Printed Name

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