



GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

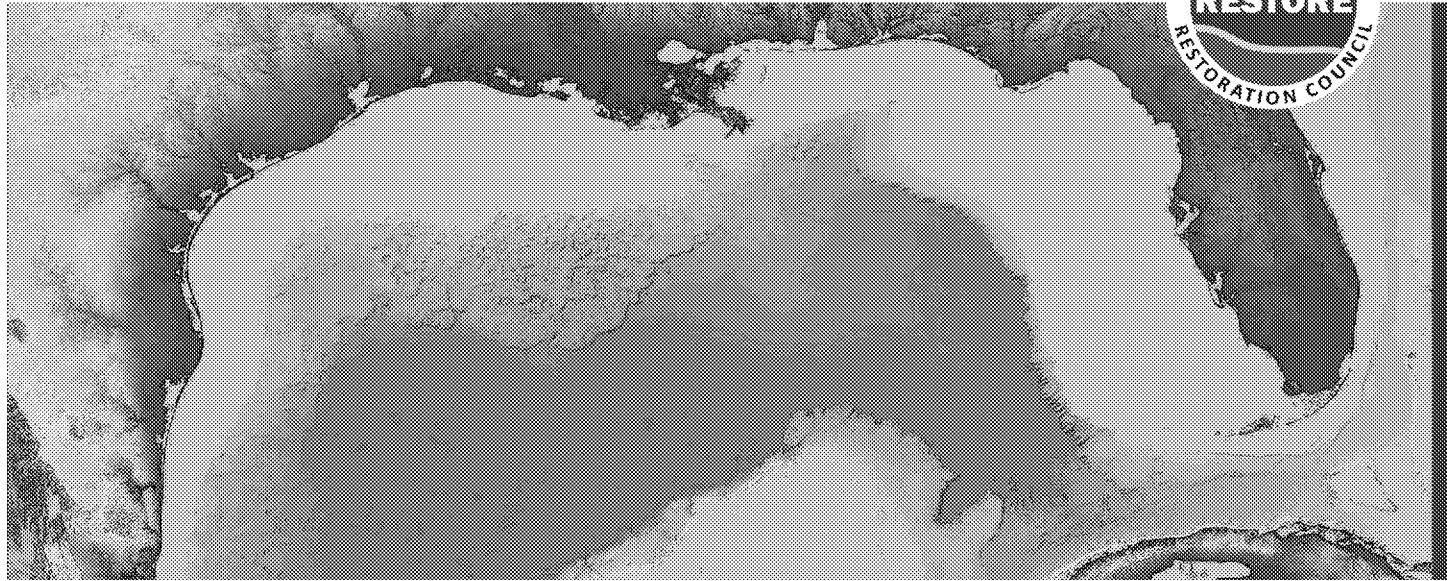
April 24-25, 2018

EPA Gulf Breeze Laboratory

Gulf Breeze, Florida

**April 24/25, 2018, Steering Committee Meeting
Agenda and Presentation Materials
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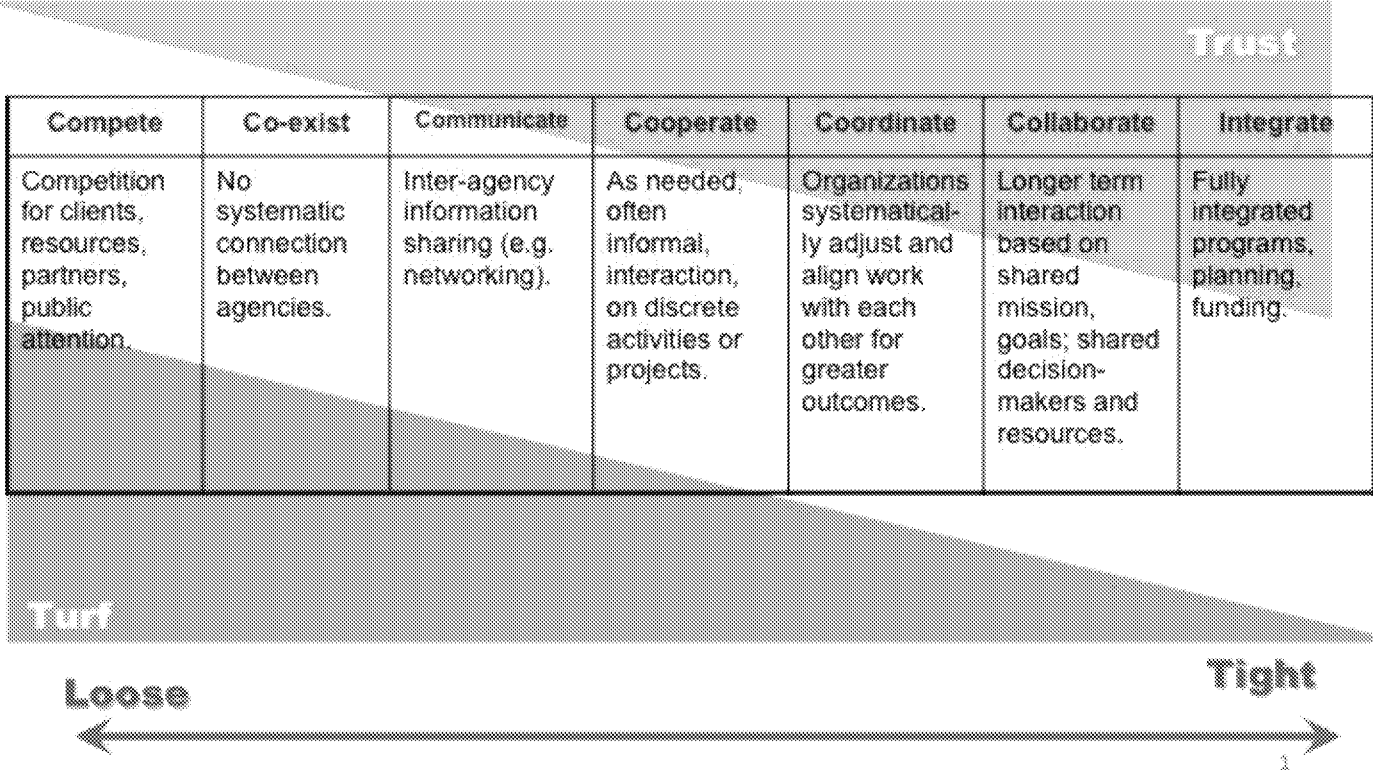
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**FPL 3 and 10-Year Funding Strategy
Updating Workflow and Timing**

April 2018 Steering Committee Meeting

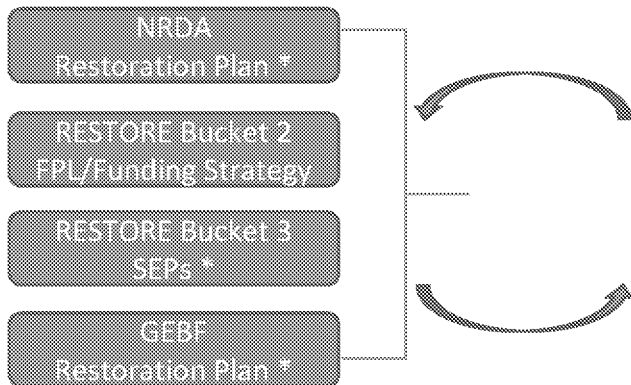
Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval

The Collaboration Continuum



<http://www.collaborationforimpact.com/collaborative-approaches/ca-subpage-2/>

Collaboration: Vision to Implementation and Back Again



*** Stakeholder and Public input/output included in these steps**

Watershed/Type "Vision" *

- Goals & Objectives
- Metrics
- Targets



Projects Concepts *

- Priorities
- Sequencing
- Funding Mechanism(s)



Implement Project(s)

- Planning
- E&D
- Construction



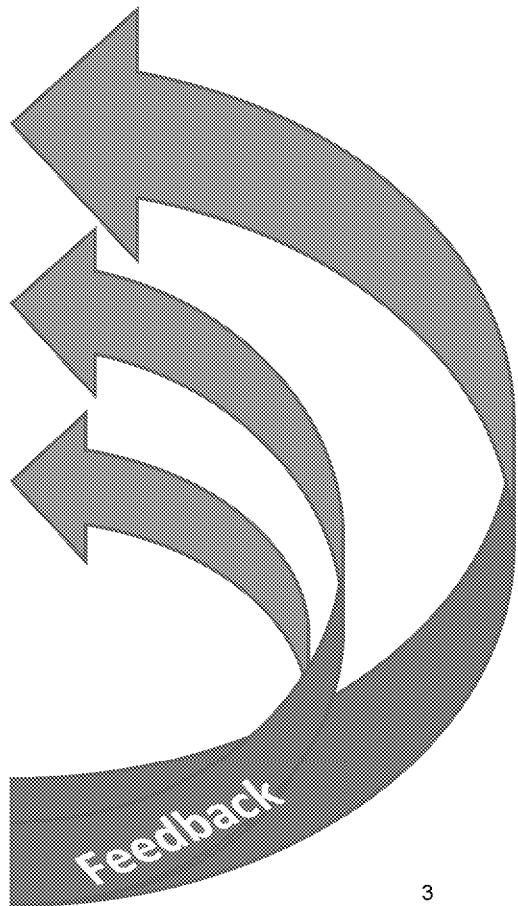
Monitor

- Project metrics
- Watershed metrics

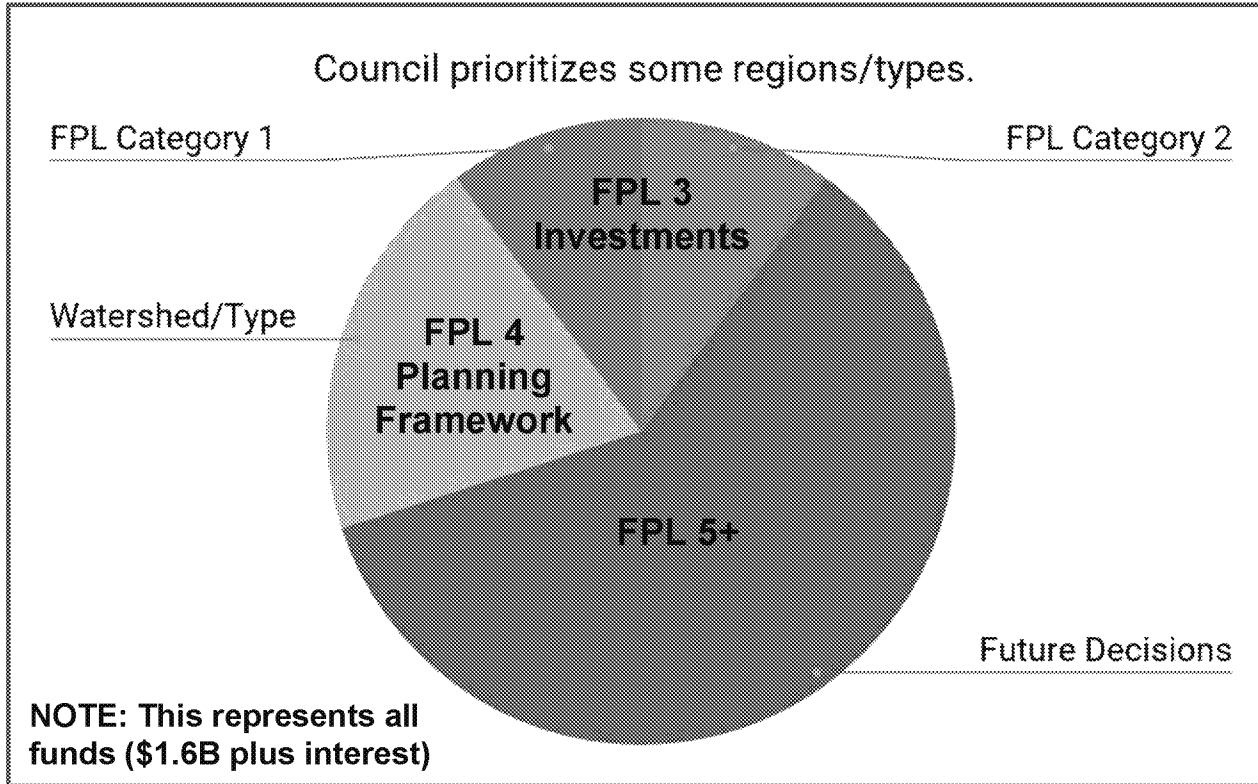


Evaluate

- Project
- Project Technique
- Watershed



FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy



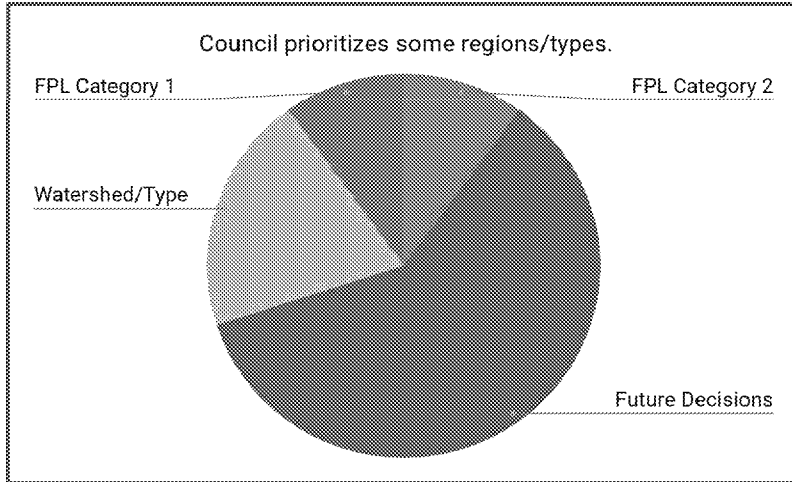
Examples of Planning Framework Options:

Framework 1: Focus on key watersheds/estuaries

Framework 2: Focus on key resources (e.g., oysters, wetlands)

Framework 3: Mix of frameworks 1 and 2

Filling FPL 3/Funding Strategy Information Gap



Issue:

- Priority watersheds/restoration types (i.e. “Planning Framework”) have not been identified for **FPL 3**

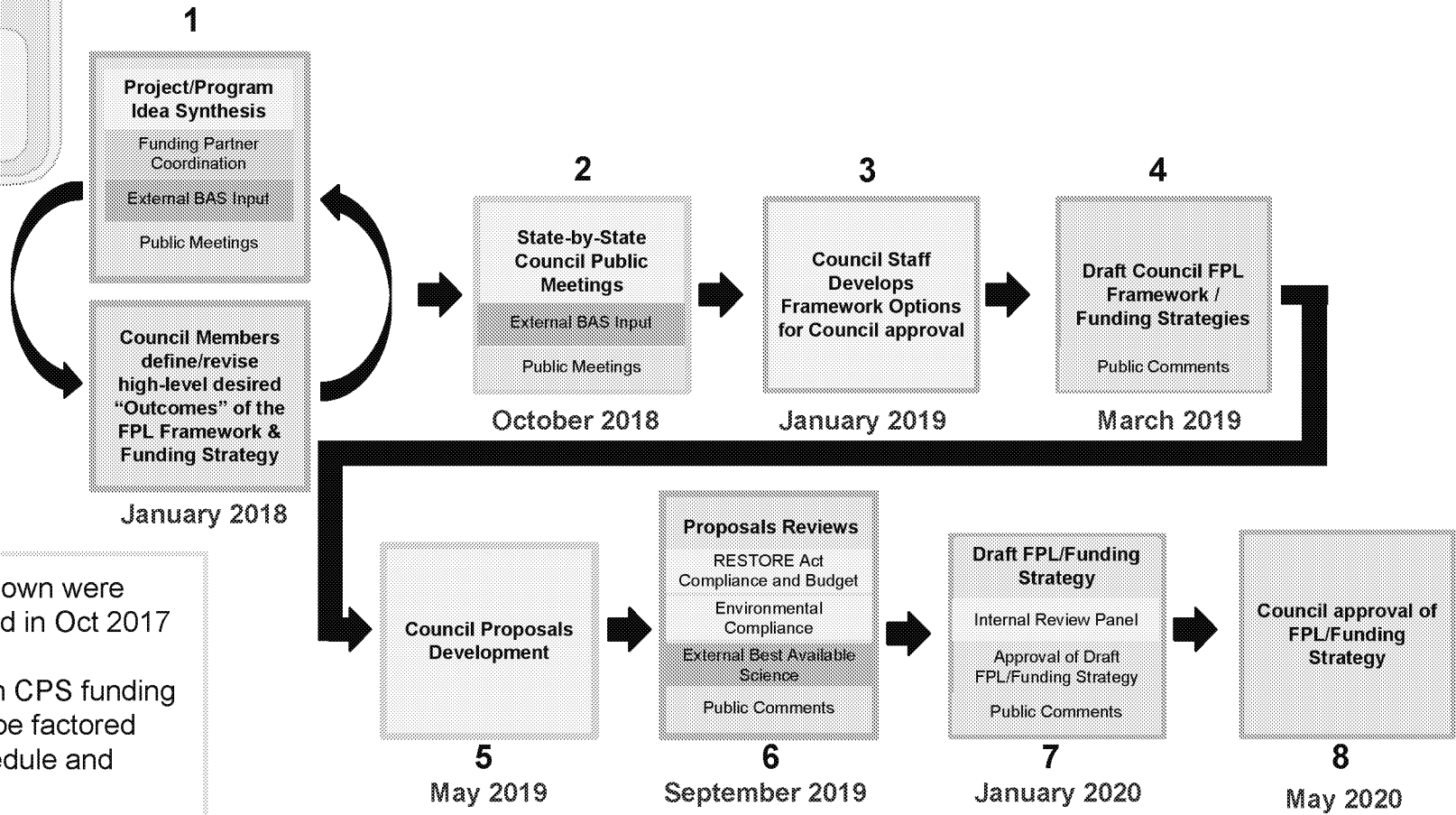
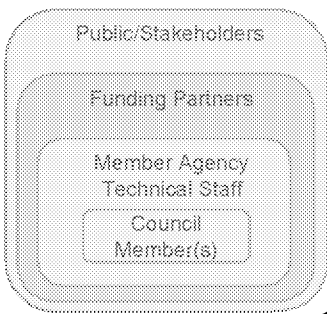
Solution:

- Member-led Collaboration meetings provide foundation for development of the Council’s FPL3 “Planning Framework”

Purpose:

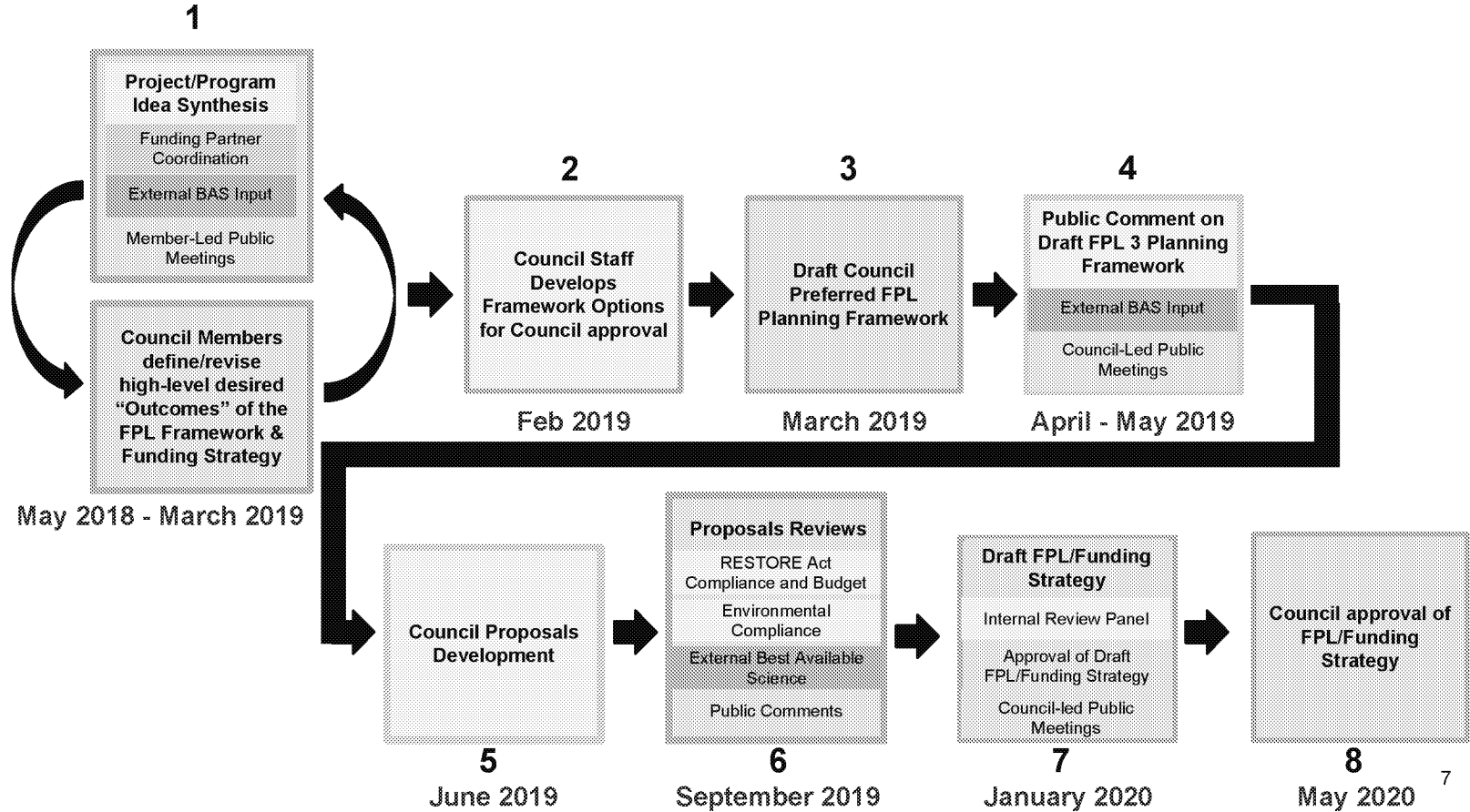
- Signal Council’s FPL3 priorities to the public, stakeholders, potential funding partners
- Seek Public feedback prior to proceeding with proposals development

Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline



- Dates shown were discussed in Oct 2017 meeting
- Delays in CPS funding need to be factored into schedule and workflow

Revised Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline





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FPL 3 / Funding Strategy Path Forward

April 2018 Steering Committee Meeting

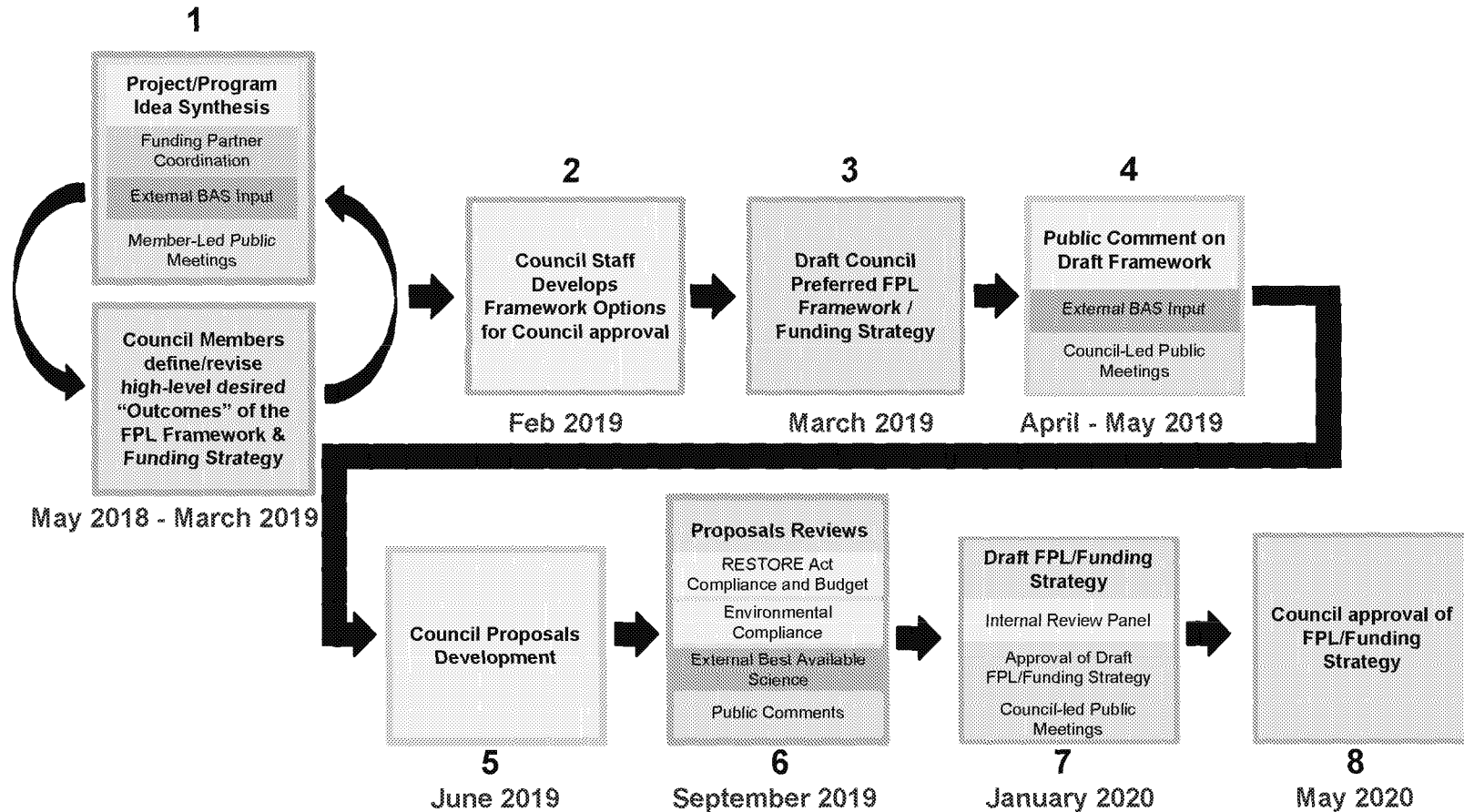
Gulf Breeze, FL

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FPL3/Funding Strategy Workflow & Timeline





FPL3/Funding Strategy Path Forward

Tasks to Support Achievement of Milestones:

- **Member-led collaboration activities** (*Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*)
 - Technical/Funding Partners/Stakeholder/Public/Funding meetings and workshops to develop concepts
 - Steering Committee Meetings to report out/discuss member-by-member progress

- **Increasing Public Transparency** (*Spring 2018 - ...*)
 - On-going Public Engagement Workgroup coordination
 - RESTORE Education Opportunities

- **Submissions & reviews updates** (*Spring 2018 - Spring 2019*)
 - Submission guidelines
 - Proposals submission platform (i.e. RAAMS replacement)
 - Science review process
 - Submissions review process



Steering Committee Meetings & Milestones

Mississippi

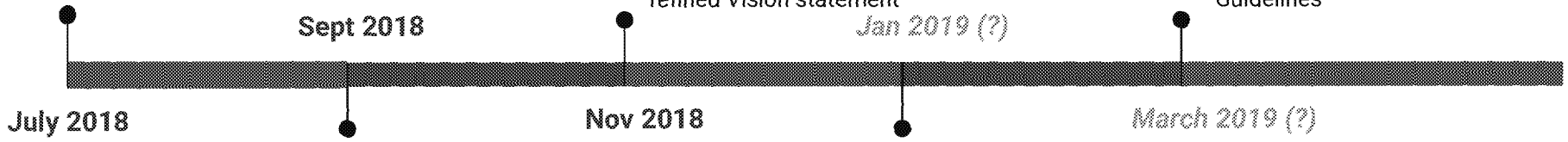
- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Discuss Public Webinar - FPL3 process

Texas

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Science review updates
- Council "Outcomes"/ refined Vision statement

Florida

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Approve draft FPL 3 Planning Framework
- Public Meetings Presentation
- Discuss draft Submission Guidelines

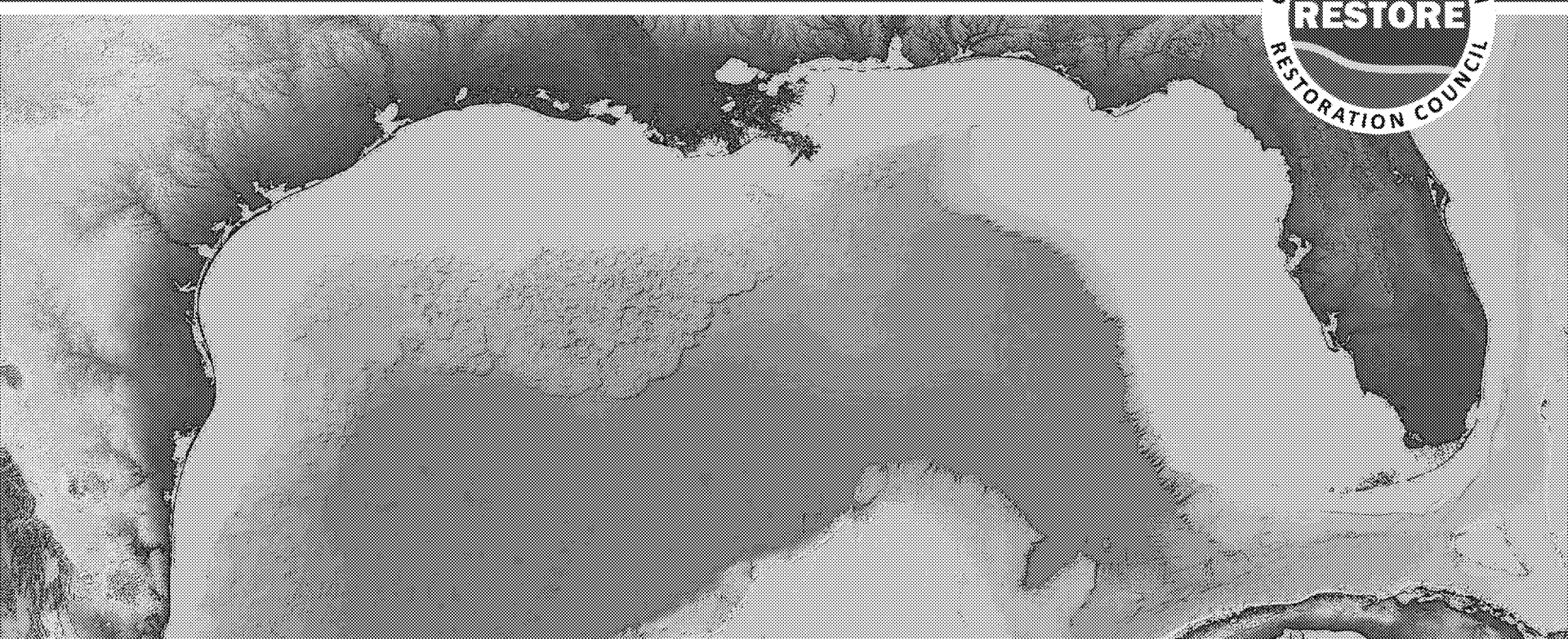


Alabama

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Update on RESTORE education opportunities

Louisiana

- Member collaboration activities
- Restoration concepts
- FPL 3 Planning Framework Options
- Influence on revisions to Submission Guidelines
- Council-led Public Meetings Logistics



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

FPL3 Submission Guidelines and Review Process Update

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval



FPL3 Submission Process & Collaboration

- **FPL3 process is built on collaboration**
 - Can improve both the efficiency of the FPL submission development and review process

- **Update of FPL submission guidelines and review process will incorporate:**
 - Lessons learned from Initial FPL and
 - Developments from FPL3 collaboration process
 - e.g., collaboration may lead to fewer, more integrated submissions, which in turn could facilitate submission review process



FPL3 Submission Guidelines and Review Process

FPL Submission Guidelines - Guide members in the development of FPL submissions by describing:

- Eligible activities
- Submission evaluation criteria
- Contents of submission packages
- Other info/requirements for effective submissions

FPL Submission Review Process - Describes how submissions will be reviewed by Council:

- Consistency with Act, Comp Plan, including other Council priorities (e.g., FPL framework)
- Best Available Science review
- Environmental compliance “readiness” review



Submission Guidelines and Review Process Update

Purpose of Updates:

- Enhance efficiency and effectiveness of FPL process
- Incorporate lessons learned from Initial FPL
 - e.g., FPL funding categories, budgets, milestones...
- Address the Comprehensive Plan Update commitments
 - e.g., Collaboration, BAS, public engagement...
 - Incorporate future CMAWG monitoring and data management recommendations
 - Incorporate future PE Workgroup recommendations
- Account for BP settlement and future funding



FPL3 Submission Guidelines Update

Proposed Path Forward:

- Council staff drafts submission guidelines and review process updates
- Members review updates
 - Council staff addresses member comments
- Steering Committee approves updates
- Final submission guidelines and review process updates posted on Council website

Proposed Completion Target: Spring 2019



FPL Science Review Process Update

2016 Comp Plan Update Science Commitments:

- Updating the science review process questions
- Continued use of external reviewers for future FPL reviews
- Exploring the use of one or more science review panels

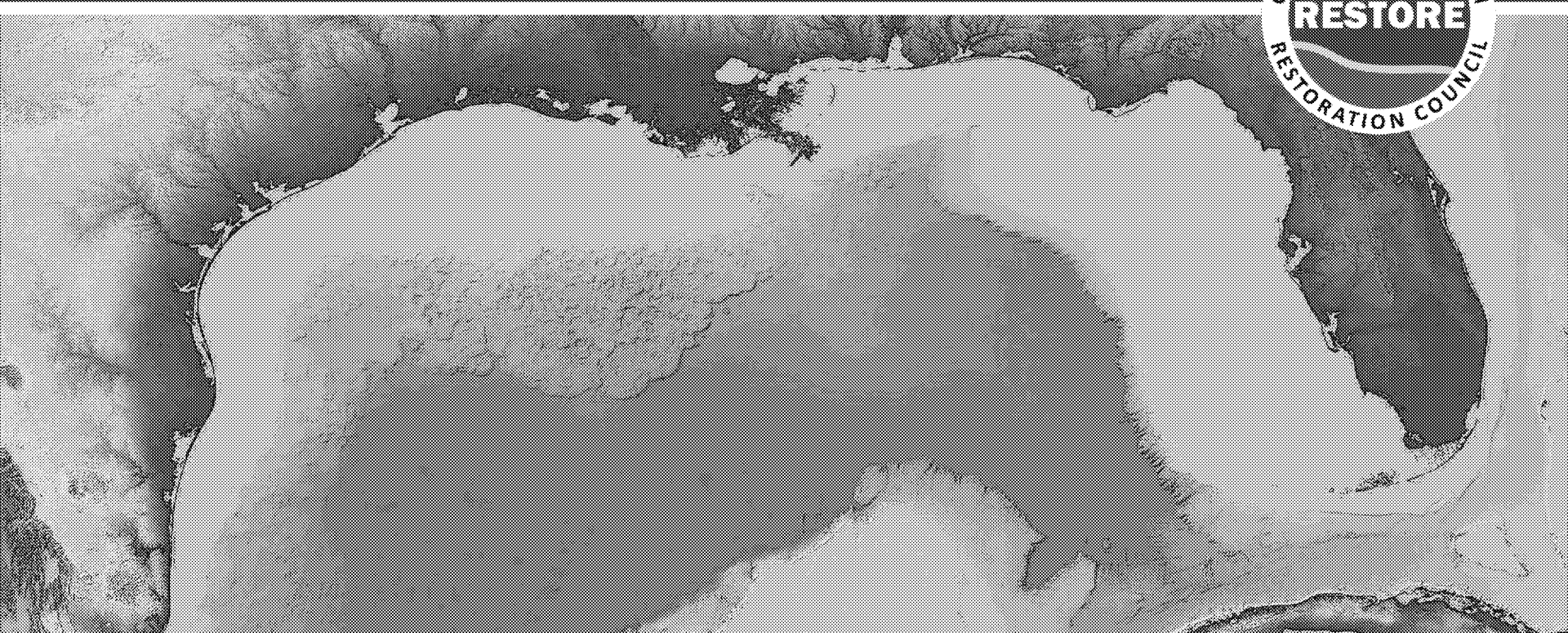


FPL Science Review Process Update

Proposed Path Forward:

- Council staff evaluate science review processes used by other restoration programs
- Members review approaches provided by Council staff
 - Council staff addresses member comments
- Steering Committee approves science review process update
- Final science review process updates posted on Council website

Proposed Completion Target: Early 2019



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

FPL 3 Environmental Compliance Review

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FPL Environmental Compliance

Objectives:

- Review laws applicable to Bucket 2 funding approval
- Discuss opportunities for collaboration and efficiency in advance of FPL 3



FPL Environmental Compliance: Background

- **FPL funding approval is a federal action**
- **Applicable laws (at funding approval stage):**
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Endangered Species Act (ESA)
 - Magnuson-Stevens Act (MSA)
 - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
 - Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FCWA)
- **Apply to FPL implementation activities with environmental impacts**
 - ...as opposed to planning only
- **Other laws may apply at grant and/or implementation stage**
 - Often it is most efficient to address laws concurrently



FPL Environmental Compliance: Background (cont.)

- **FPL submissions for implementation funds must include:**
 - NEPA documentation
 - Demonstration of compliance with other applicable laws (e.g., ESA, NHPA, MSA...)
- **To approve implementation funding:**
 - Council could adopt NEPA documentation (or use member Categorical Exclusion)
 - Ensure compliance with other applicable laws
- **Implementation activities not ready for funding approval can be placed in FPL Category 2**



FPL Environmental Compliance: Examples

- **Example 1: FPL submission with existing Clean Water Act Section 404 permit**
 - As appropriate, Council could:
 - Adopt associated NEPA documentation, and
 - Include award condition requiring compliance with permit conditions (e.g., ESA, MSA, NHPA...)
- **Example 2: FPL submission for habitat conservation activity**
 - As appropriate, Council could:
 - Use member NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE), and
 - Coordinate with members to ensure compliance with other potentially applicable laws
- **Example 3: FPL submission for planning only**
 - Council would use its planning CE



FPL3 Environmental Compliance: Collaboration

- **Collaboration can improve FPL submissions and increase environmental compliance efficiency**
 - Incorporate interagency feedback and technical guidance at earliest opportunity
 - Determine if existing NEPA documentation, general permits, or consultations are applicable
 - e.g., existing member CE, PEIS, or NWP...
 - Determine what additional compliance needs must be met prior to submission
 - Leverage expertise of regulatory agencies
 - Ensure planning proposals have sufficient budget for future regulatory needs
- **CPS can be used for presubmission environmental compliance coordination**

Please contact with Council staff with any questions.



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Education and Transparency

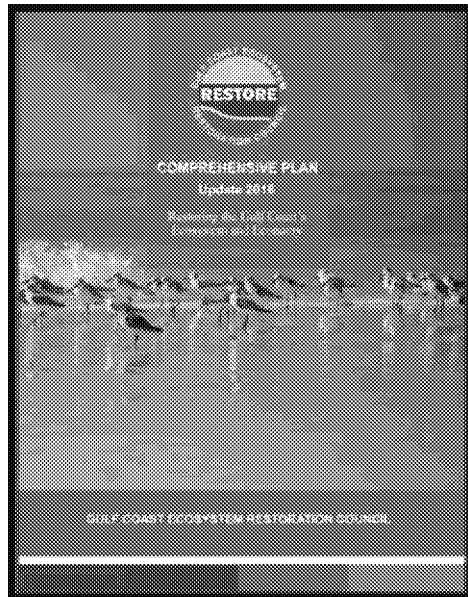
April 24, 2018



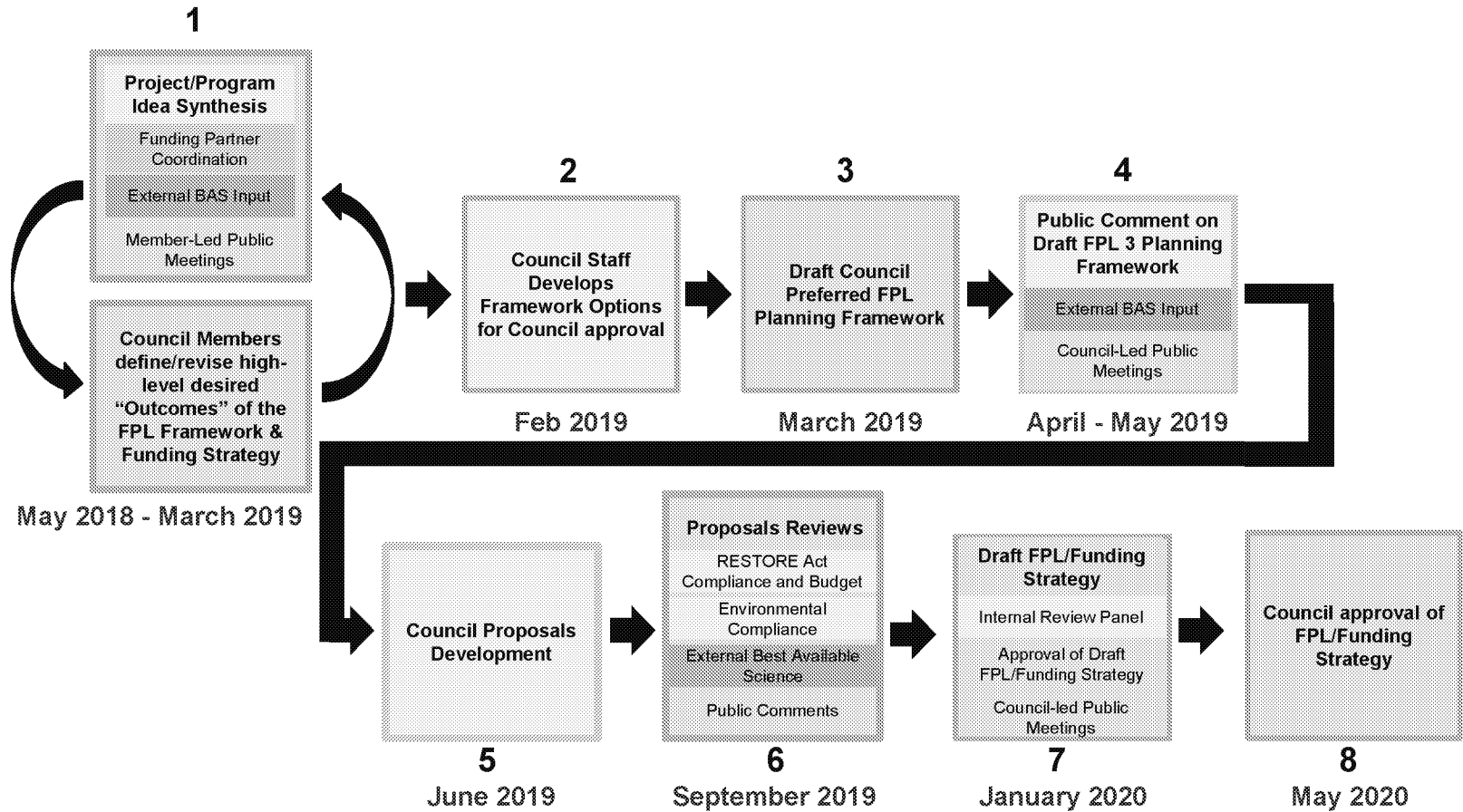
Comprehensive Plan Update

Commitment to Engagement, Inclusion, and Transparency

- Committed to setting and maintaining the highest standard for public engagement and transparency
- Seek broad participation and input from the diverse stakeholders who live, work, and play in the Gulf Coast region
- Support engagement with all stakeholders, including under-represented communities and federally-recognized Tribes
- Continue offering public engagement opportunities & ensure public participation
- Refine process for considering public input



Revised Proposed FPL/10-Year Funding Strategy Timeline





Public Engagement Roles & Responsibilities

- Educating stakeholders
- Coordinating with PE Workgroup
- Identifying outreach opportunities
 - Meetings/Conferences
 - Webinars
- Public Engagement Casework



Stakeholders

- Develops cooperative relationships with stakeholders
 - Internal Stakeholders
 - Council Members/Steering Committee & Staff
 - Council Staff
 - External Stakeholders
 - Congressional Members/Staff
 - Federally recognized Tribes
 - Intergovernmental
 - Non Governmental Organizations
 - Media
 - General Public (including but not limited to limited English proficient and underserved/underrepresented communities)



Effective Public Engagement

- Builds trust and improves communication between stakeholders and decision makers
- Creates new opportunities for transparency and stakeholders involvement in problem solving and decision making
 - Builds common understanding
 - Helps stakeholders weigh a variety of perspectives and listen to each other's views
 - Manages differences and establishes path forward on tough issues



RESTORE eB

Secure | <https://www.restorethegulf.gov>



RESTORETHEGULF.GOV

The official website of the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

**MS State Expenditure Plan
Amendment Recommended for
Approval**

**Council Approves 2017 Annual
Report to Congress**

**Council Approves 2017 Funded
Priorities List (CPS FPL)**

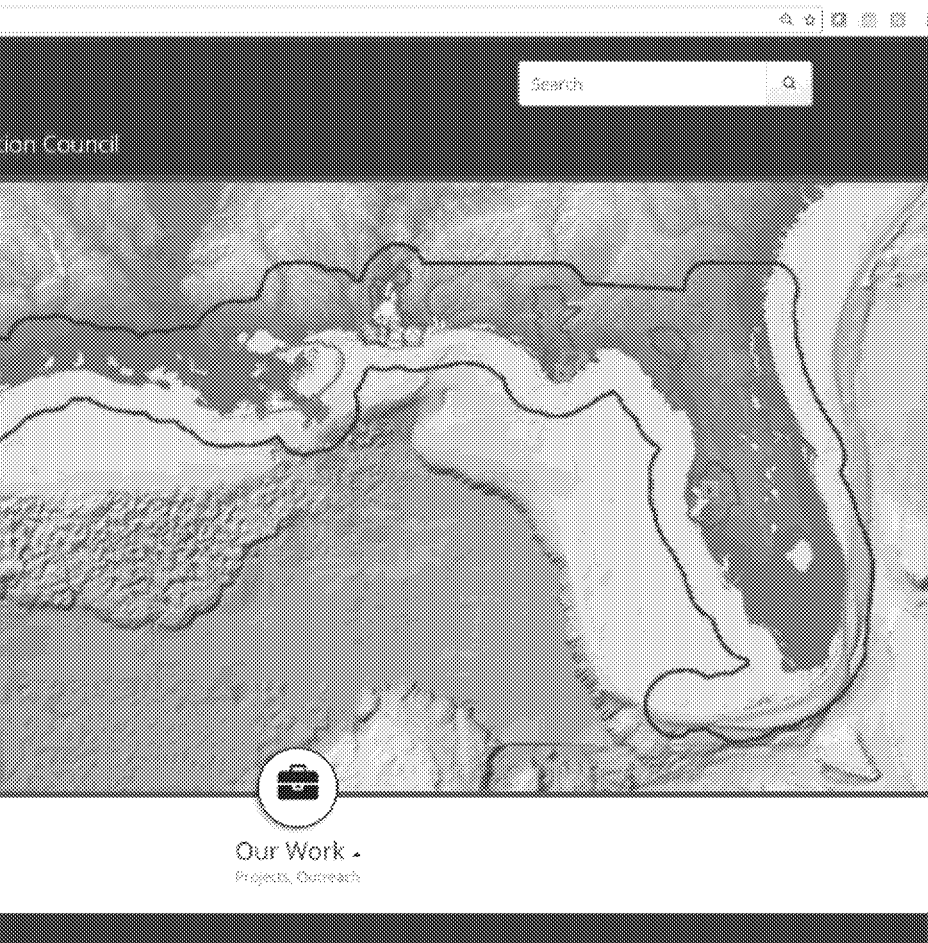
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The Council •

History, People, Resources

Blasts Subscription





Press - Media Releases

Press releases/media advisories from the RESTORE Council Members and other related Gulf restoration efforts.

Gulf-wide

Gulf-wide updates from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida on projects awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts.

Texas

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Texas.

Louisiana

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Louisiana.

Mississippi

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Mississippi.

Alabama

Updates on project awards, project amendments RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Alabama.

Florida

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with the state of Florida.

Tribal

Updates on project awards, project amendments, RESTORE Council Member activities and other related Gulf restoration efforts associated with Federally Recognized Tribal lands.

Public Meetings or Public Comment Periods

Notification of public meetings or public comment periods from the RESTORE Council Members and other related Gulf restoration efforts.



RESTORE eBlasts



GULF COAST ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COUNCIL

Haie Boggs Federal Building
500 Poydras Street
Suite 1117
New Orleans, LA 70130
www.RestoreTheGulf.gov

The State of Florida has completed the construction phase of the [Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration project](#) funded by the RESTORE Council. This \$4.7 million project is the first completed implementation phase of a project funded from the [Council-Selected Restoration Component's Initial Funded Priorities List](#). Approximately 85,000 cubic yards of lime rock material was taken by barge and placed in the bay waters on an estimated 317-acre area in Franklin County. This has provided a new base that larval oysters may naturally settle on and grow in size to maturity. Newly settled oyster larvae are referred to as oyster spat. This effort complements other oyster restoration projects within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs which have suffered from degradation. Oysters improve water quality through filtering out excess sediment and pollutants. Oyster beds provide habitat that sustains fish and other bay organisms.

Florida's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will monitor the project by measuring the colonization and growth of oysters in the restored area over the next two years.

For more information on this project, contact Rachel Home deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us.

We look forward to connecting with you!



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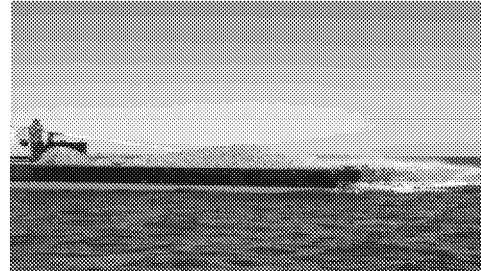
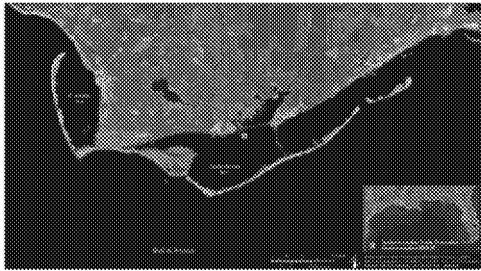
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RESTORATION COMPONENT

Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration (implementation)

FPL #01



Project Abstract

The State of Florida has completed the construction phase of the Apalachicola Bay Oyster Restoration project funded by the RESTORE Council. This \$4.7 million project is the first completed implementation phase of a project funded from the Council-Selected Restoration Component's Initial Funded Priorities List. Approximately 95,000 cubic yards of lime rock material was taken by barge and placed in the bay waters on an estimated 317-acre area in Franklin County. This has provided a new base that larval oysters may naturally settle on and grow in size to maturity. Newly settled oyster larvae are referred to as oyster spat. This effort complements other oyster restoration projects within Apalachicola Bay, an area with nationally and regionally significant oyster reefs which have suffered from degradation. Oysters improve water quality through filtering out excess sediment and pollutants. Oyster beds provide habitat that sustains fish and other bay organisms.

Florida's Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve will monitor the project by measuring the colonization and growth of oysters in the restored area over the next two years.

Contact

Rachel Home email: deepwaterhorizon@dep.state.fl.us

Budget

Award amount: \$4,680,000.00

Federal Award ID Number: GNTCP17FL0039

Project Start Date

4/1/2017

Project End Date

7/1/2020

Award Amount

\$4,680,000.00

Organization

Florida Department of Environmental Protection;

Watershed

Apalachicola Bay Watershed

Congressional Districts

FL-2

State(s)

Florida

Project Phase

Implementation

Project ID

EGID 39



[Go to full gallery](#)

Last Date Refreshed

02/27/2018



Public Engagement Tools

Current

- RESTORE eBlasts
- Products (Fact Sheets, FAQs, Talking Points)
- Project Pages
- Social Media
- Webinars
- Website

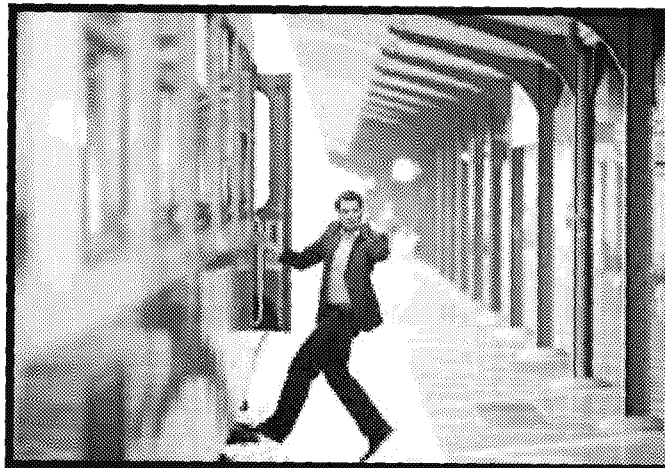
Future

- RESTORE Education Opportunities



Questions from the Public

How do I get money for lost wages?



Who is on the RESTORE Council?

Where do I submit my project/program?

When will the next FPL be released?

What is an "FPL"?

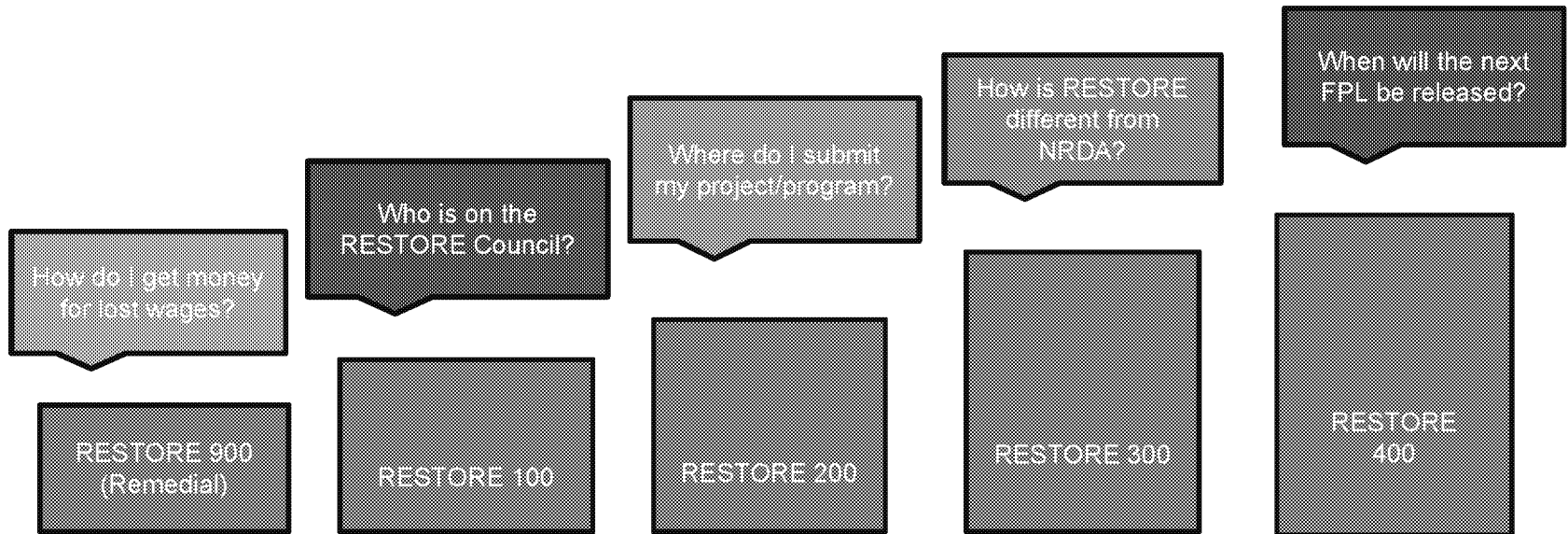
What is RESTORE?

I have health issues related to oil spill clean up...

How is RESTORE different from NRDA?



Understanding RESTORE





RESTORE Ed

Who

- RESTORE staff
- Public Engagement Workgroup members
- Council Member representatives (as needed)

What

- A series of 30 minute to 1 hour informal small group meetings

Education Opportunities

How

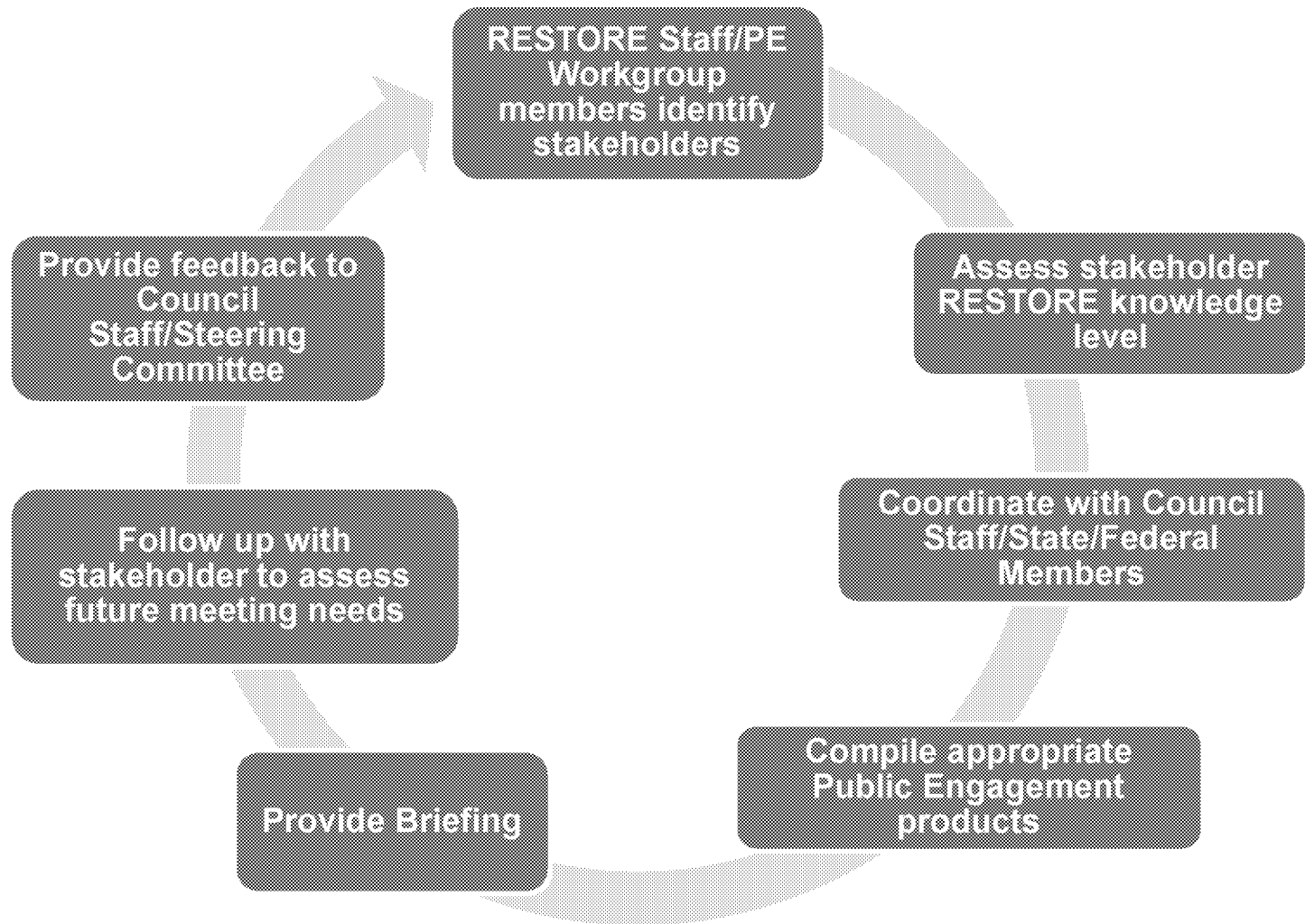
- Advertised on RESTORE website/eBlasts
- Pre-approved RESTORE/NRDA/NWFW products

Where

- Previously scheduled meetings
- Faith based/Houses of worship
- Community centers
- Fairs/Festivals
- Restoration effort meetings
- Other partner identified venues



RESTORE Education Opportunities





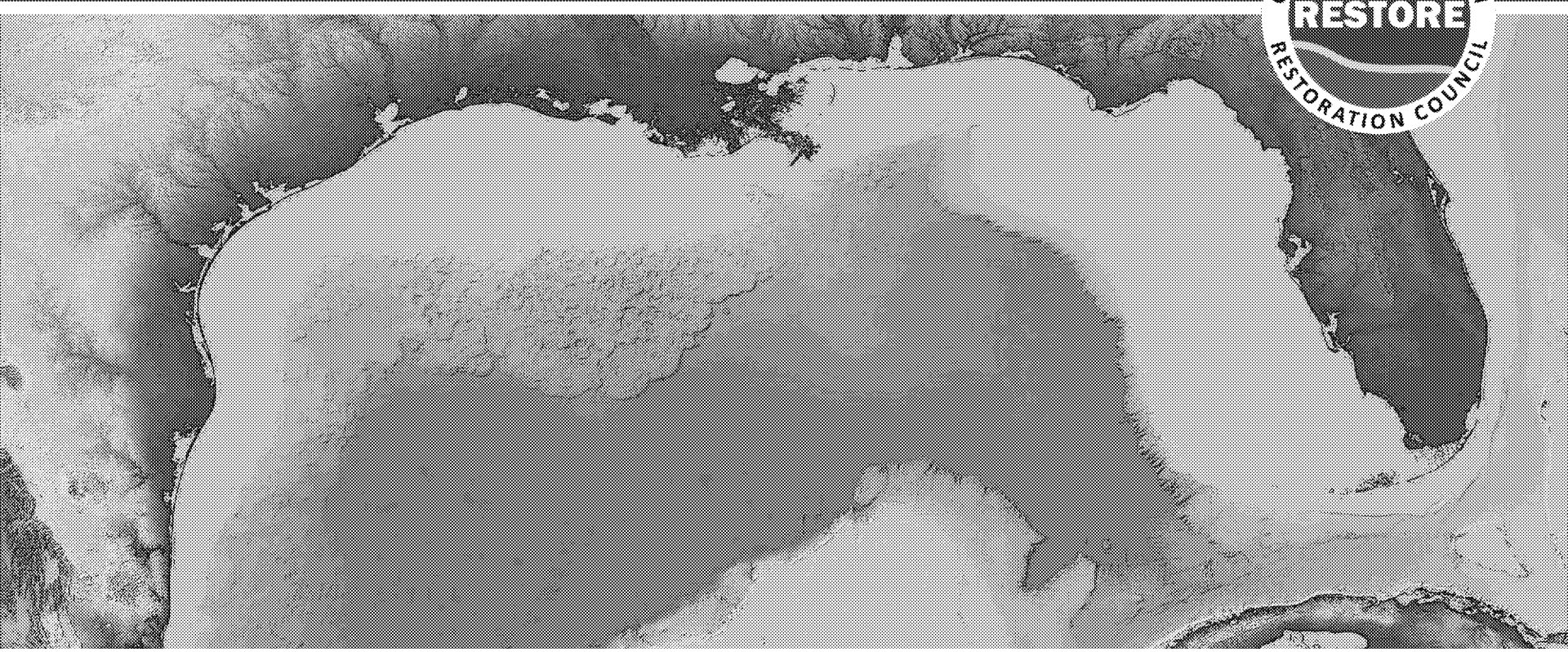
Expected Results

- Supporting engagement with all stakeholders
- Increasing diversity of participants
- Increasing public engagement opportunities
- Ensuring public participation



Council PE Workgroup Members

- Serve as POC for transparency of member activities
 - Project Page content/update
 - Develop member project award roll out
 - Public Meeting announcements
 - Member collaboration activities
 - CPS activities
- Participate in developing coordinated Council message
 - Enhance public knowledge of ongoing Council restoration activities/efforts
 - Communicate FPL/10 year funding strategy
 - RESTORE Council DWH 10 Anniversary strategy



Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Commitment and Planning Support (CPS) Year 4 Evaluation Process

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Staff Work Product – Subject to Council Approval



CPS FPL Year 4 Evaluation - Purpose

Per the CPS FPL, at Year-4, review the effectiveness of CPS Funds in:

- Supporting Council members in meeting the Comprehensive Plan commitments
- Identifying future investments that maximize achievement of Gulf-wide restoration goals
- Considering whether extending planning and support efforts beyond the five-year period is needed to continue to meet the Comprehensive Plan commitments.

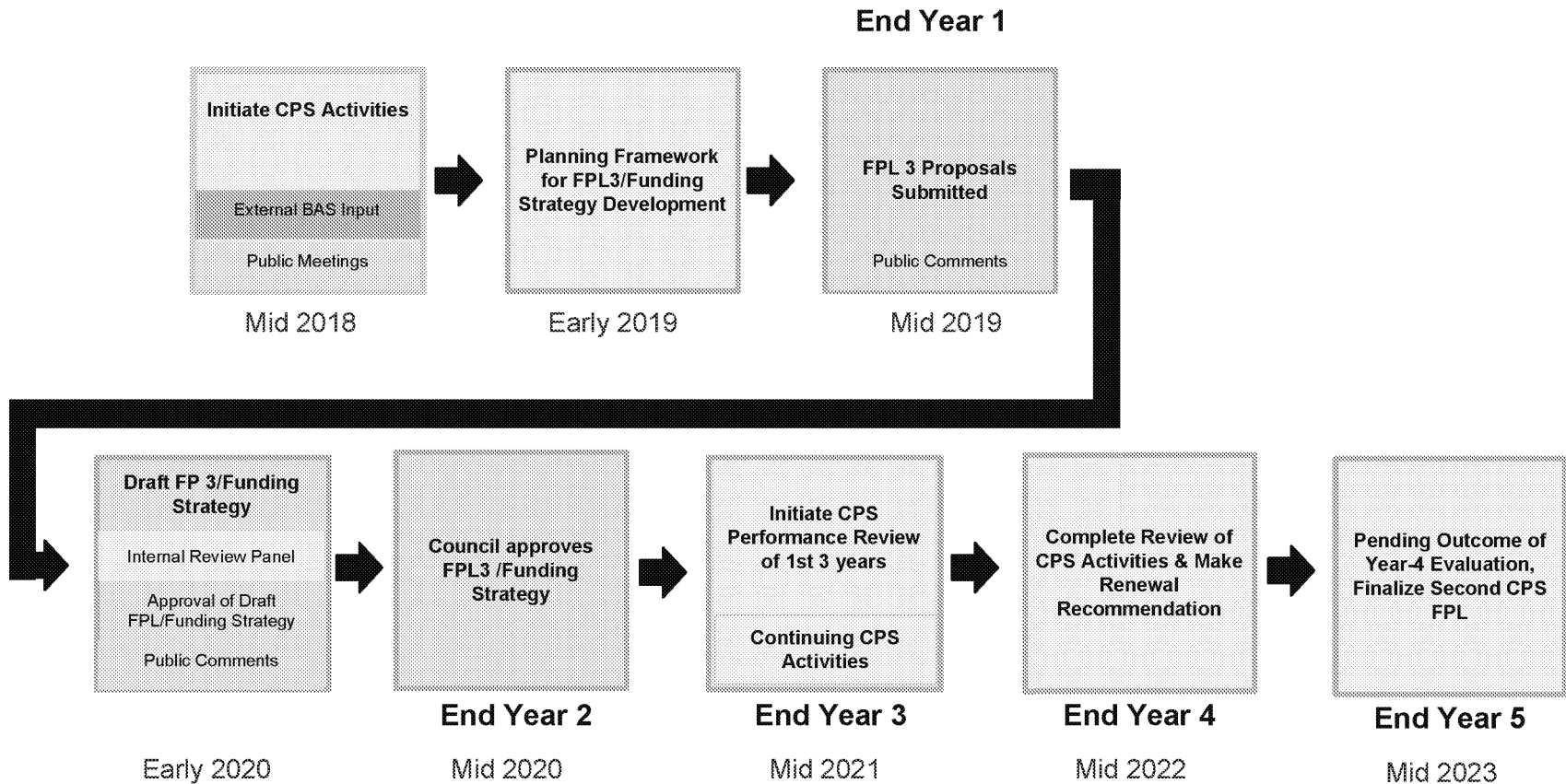


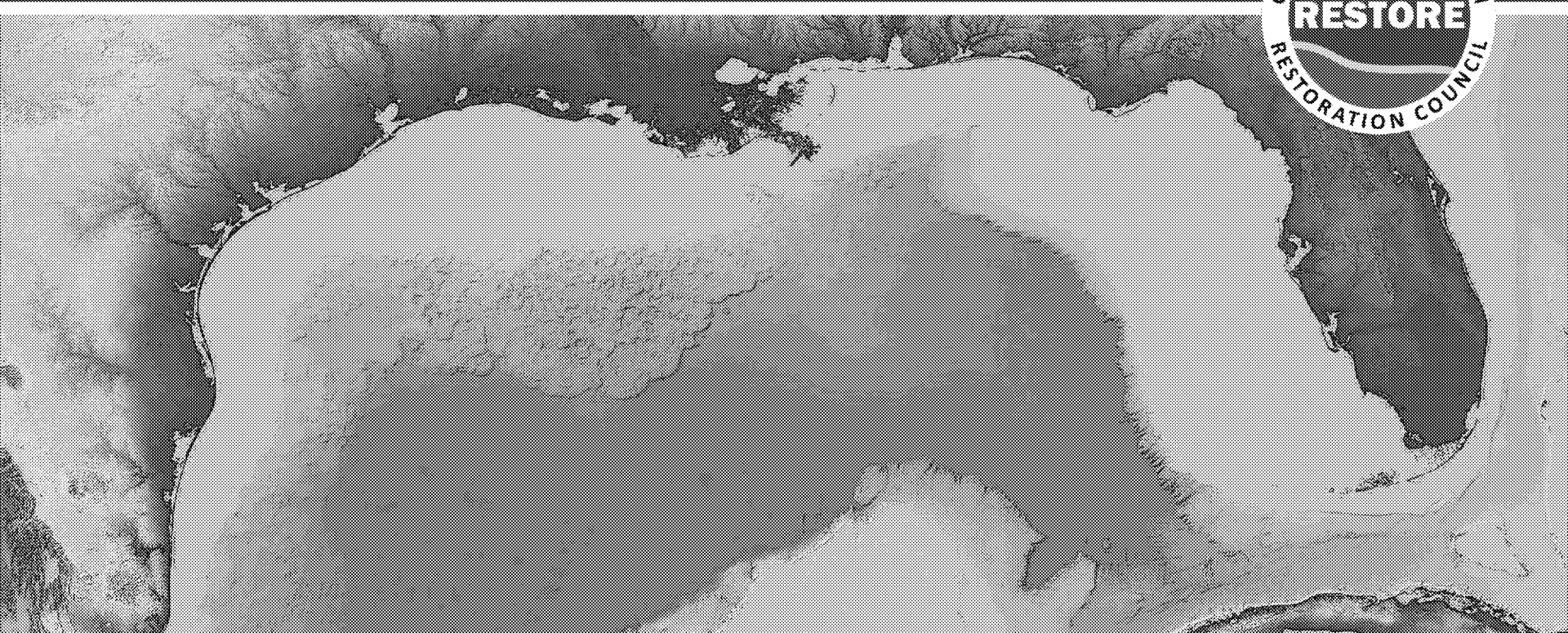
Recommended Approach

- Use both qualitative and quantitative information to evaluate effectiveness
- Initiate evaluation at the beginning of Year 4, thereby evaluating the first 3 years of activities
- Evaluation would inform:
 - CPS FPL renewal determination
 - Whether revisions to parameters (e.g., funding amounts, allowable activities) are warranted
 - Any necessary revisions to commitments in the 2021 Comprehensive Plan update



CPS Evaluation Timeline





Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council

Potential FPL Budget Shortfalls: Overview

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Potential FPL Budget Shortfalls

- **Goal of presentation:**
 - Heads up to members regarding issue
 - Initial feedback/thoughts from members
- **Issue:** Members might request additional funds to cover budget shortfalls for approved FPL activities (pre- or post-award)
 - Due to unanticipated costs (materials, labor...)
 - Not uncommon in programs such as this
 - Council process needed for addressing such requests



Potential Outcomes

- Amend FPL to increase funding to meet budget shortfall
- Determine alternative way to continue within approved budget (e.g., downsize project, alternative funding source(s) to cover shortfall)
- Deauthorize project and/or move it to consideration for funding in a subsequent FPL (could include termination of award)



Policy and Process Elements

- **Council policy and process for potential budget shortfalls would need to address:**
 - Role of sponsor, Council staff and other members in reviewing matter and making recommendations to Council
 - Timing for considering such requests (e.g., ad hoc versus periodic Council meetings)
 - Budget considerations (e.g., funds for potential increases limited in some way)