FLORIDA GULF OF MEXICO RESTORATION PROJECT SUBMITTAL FORM

SUBMIT

Form Purpose and Instructions:

- To assist the project proposal and review process, please complete this Submittal Form. Completion of the Form will contribute to the appropriate information being completely and accurately submitted for each project.
- Take as much space as needed for each question, but please keep responses as focused as possible. It may assist you to review all the questions before addressing any one question.
- If you have multiple projects – please submit one Form for each project.
- When you have completed the form hit the submit button in the upper right hand corner. Once your Form is successfully submitted, you will receive a confirmation email from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection.
- Submit all back-up maps, information, etc. to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us
- To submit updated information, please fill out this form and update fields as needed
- * Indicates required fields

New Project ✔ **Update to Previous Submittal** ☐ **Project #** ☐

***Project Name** Identifying the cause of beach swimming advisories at Carl Gray Park in Bay County, FL

Contact Information

* Full Name Patrice Couch

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* Email patrice.couch@sabrm

Organization Name St. Andrew Bay Watch

Additional name(s), phone number(s), email address(s), and organization name(s) and/or project partners

St. Andrew Bay Watch (RMA) has been incorporated since 1986. We work very closely with local, state and federal agencies. This organization monitors the water quality in St. Andrew Bay, sea turtle nests on our beaches, seagrass habitat, and scallops and also works to restore eroded shorelines. For this particular project, we will be working with the FL Department of Health and the FDEP to perform microbial source tracking to identify why Carl Gray Park is issued swimming advisories 30% of the time that coliform testing takes place.

***Project Location**

Include a map, if possible, and the city, county, longitude/latitude decimal degrees if known, and parcel # if applicable.

St. Andrew Bay is located in Panama City, Bay County, FL. Carl Gray Park is located at the base of the Hathaway Bridge. This park is one of a dozen locations monitored by the FL Department of Health for fecal coliforms. Approximately 1/3 of the time, Carl Gray Park is issued a swimming advisory because the coliform counts are high. No one has tried to determine the source of these coliforms. Carl Gray Park is a city park and is heavily used by boaters and swimmers. Students from Gulf Coast State College visit this park regularly as it is located across the street from the campus.

***Watershed(s)**

Select all that apply. A map of corresponding Florida watersheds is provided to assist in accurate placement of the project. If the project pertains to off shore or open ocean efforts, select Open Ocean. ***Florida Watersheds Map***

- [ ] All FL Coastal Watersheds
- [ ] All FL Gulf Coast Watersheds
- [ ] All FL Watersheds
- [ ] Apalachicola-Chipola
- [ ] Caloosahatchee
- [ ] Charlotte Harbor
- [x] Choctawhatchee-St. Andrew
- [ ] Everglades
- [ ] Everglades West Coast
- [ ] Fisheating Creek
- [ ] Florida Keys
- [ ] Indian River Lagoon
- [ ] Kissimmee River
- [ ] Lake Okeechobee
- [ ] Lake Worth Lagoon-Palm Beach Coast
- [ ] Lower St. Johns
- [ ] Middle St. Johns
- [ ] Nassau-St. Marys
- [ ] Ochlockonee-St. Marks
- [ ] Ocklawaha
- [ ] Open Ocean
- [ ] Pensacola
- [ ] Perdido
- [ ] Sarasota Bay-Peace-Myakka
- [ ] Southeast Coast-Biscayne Bay
- [ ] Springs Coast
- [ ] St. Lucie-Loxahatchee
- [ ] Suwannee
- [ ] Tampa Bay
- [ ] Tampa Bay Tributaries
- [ ] Upper East Coast
- [ ] Upper St. Johns
- [ ] Withlacoochee

***Project Description**

Describe all aspects of the project.

St. Andrew Bay Watch will determine the source of the fecal coliforms in the waters off Carl Gray Park. This park is issued the greatest number of advisories (about 30% of the time) when compared to the other sites monitored by the DOH in Bay County. From 2002 to 2013, Carl Gray Park was under a swimming advisory a total of 924 days which is 2.5 years! The purpose of the project is to identify the source of these coliforms and then work with city and county officials on a plan to remove their input. St. Andrew Bay Watch staff will perform a sanitary survey of the beach and collect water samples over the course of two years under various weather conditions. The sanitary survey includes the locations of stormwater outfalls, lift stations, and sewer lines as well as a survey of the activities that take place at the park and the condition of the beach over the course of two years.

***Project Category**

Although projects may identify under multiple categories, please place your project in the best fit category. A document of category definitions and examples is provided. ***Category Definitions***

Land Acquisition
Water Quality or Quantity
Habitat Restoration
Living Resources
Recreation/Public Access
Community Resilience

***Estimated Project Costs**

Describe the estimated costs of the project, including any assumptions for contingency and ongoing operations/maintenance. Identify other secured funding sources such as matching funds, in-kind contributions or state/federal dollars. In addition, if possible, complete and submit the Cost Appendix Sheet associated with this Form.

St. Andrew Bay Watch is requesting $300,000 to complete this project over two years. Two individuals (one full time and one part time) will be hired to run the surveys, collect samples, send samples for processing, and then report findings to officials at local, state and federal levels. Approximately half of the money will be for salaries and benefits with the other half for sample collection and processing. The chemical and molecular analyses are necessary to determine the source of the coliforms and these analyses are not cheap.

An in-kind match of approximately $70,000 has been pledged by the project partners: St. Andrew Bay Watch will

***Total Estimated Project Cost** $ 300,000.00

***Other Funding**

Indicate if the project is submitted for any potential funding or if it may be used to leverage additional funding, if so, please describe the funding source [e.g. State/Federal Grants]. Put NA if not applicable.

There is no other funding for this project.

Technical Feasibility

Describe the technologies involved and any relevant past experience or proven success with similar projects.

St. Andrew Bay Watch has the technical experience to successfully complete this project. Staff and highly trained volunteers have been monitoring water quality at over 70 stations in St. Andrew Bay continuously since 1990. Individuals not only donate their time but also the use of boats and all boat maintenance costs to support Bay Watch. However, St. Andrew Bay Watch also maintains a 26' pontoon boat that can be used in most weather conditions as it is very stable. The individuals that run our boat have received training and some are licensed boat captains.

St. Andrew Bay Watch has a lab for processing and storing water samples until sent for further analysis. Our lab is

Conflicts or Complements to Existing Efforts

Describe any ongoing activities in the project implementation area, if the project is part of another plan, and why the project does or does not interfere with that work. Please consider how the project may complement existing local, regional, and state efforts/plans/objectives.

There are no conflicts. This project would complement the water quality monitoring already taking place in St. Andrew Bay and the coliform monitoring occurring at a dozen stations along the gulf coast and bay.

Clean water is essential to ensuring the safety of the general public who are using the resource. This project would identify the cause of swimming advisories which would provide the tools needed to eventually improve water quality at this heavily used swimming beach.

Complies with Federal, State, Local, and Tribal Laws/Regulations

Describe any concerns or potential conflicts.

No conflicts.

Readiness for Implementation

Describe if the project has had any design or permitting work started or completed [attach permits or design work]. Please address any issues that may delay start or finish of the project.

St. Andrew Bay Watch is ready to tackle this project. We have already received letters of support from FDEP and FDOH for this project. We know what surveys and water sampling needs to get done and we have costs for the chemical analyses. We could start this project immediately once funds were allocated to St. Andrew Bay Watch.

Environmental Benefits

Describe the nature, magnitude, and timing of any environmental benefits attributable to the project. If possible, describe potential environmental performance measures [e.g. pollutant reduction]. Please address any potential environmental impacts associated with implementing or maintaining the project [e.g. loss of a habitat or conversion of habitat from one type to another during implementation].

We would be able to reduce the amount of coliforms entering the bay once we knew their source. The project not only identifies the source of the pathogens but also comes up with an action plan that shows how to reduce contamination and what funding sources to pursue to remove these pollutants.

Economic and Social Benefits

Describe the economic and social benefits including those related to the project's improved ecosystem services and any estimates on jobs created or preserved.

Bay County relies on tourism. Clean swimming beaches are necessary for increased tourism and improved public health.

Community Resilience

Describe if the project assists Florida's ability to anticipate, withstand, or recover from hazards or threats [e.g. hurricane preparedness, establishing living shorelines].

This project improves our community resilience because it will eventually lead to the improvement of water quality in our bay.

Public Acceptance

Describe any known or potential public approval or opposition to the project.

This project was submitted for county funding and it received the highest number of yes votes from the public when compared to the other 30 projects on the list. Although the public overwhelming supported the project, it was not funded as our county commissioners decided to spend money on other water quality projects like determining whether East Pass should be dredged or not.

Additional Information you wish to provide

Please include any maps, designs, drawings, photos or background resources that may assist in completely and accurately understanding the project. If these are too large to attach here, please email them to Restoration.Projects@dep.state.fl.us.

References:

1. Griffith John et al, 2013. The California Microbial Source Identification Manual: A Tiered Approach to Identifying Fecal Pollution Sources to Beaches.
2. Tetra Tech, Inc and Herrera Environmental Consultants, 2011. Using Microbial Source Tracking to Support TMDL Development and Implementation. Prepared for USEPA.
3. Boehm A.B. et al, 2003. Tiered Approach at Avalon Bay, Catalina Island, California. Environmental Science and Technology 37: 673-680.
4. Santoro A.E. and Boehm A.B., 2007. Frequent occurrences of the human specific Bacteroides fecal marker at

COST APPENDIX SHEET

Cost Item	Cost Estimate

Planning

Contracts	
Feasibility	
Engineering, Design, Land Rights & Bid Prep	
Restoration Plan	
Site Visits & Cost of Site Selection	
Administration, Overhead and Indirect	
Other	
Planning Subtotal:	$ 0.00

Construction

Contracts	
Administration & Mobilization/Demobilization	
Other	
Construction Subtotal:	$ 0.00

Monitoring

Contracts	$ 150,000.00
Data Collection	
Monitoring Administration	
Other	
Monitoring Subtotal:	$ 150,000.00

Project Cost

Contracts	$ 150,000.00
Subtotal:	
Contingency *(traditionally calculated at 10% of the subtotal)*	
TOTAL:	$ 150,000.00

Estimated Costs by Year

Year 1	$ 150,000.00
Year 2	$ 150,000.00
Year 3	
Year 4	
Year 5	
Year 6	