

MISSISSIPPI RESTORATION REVIEW

A publication about MS Gulf Coast restoration news from the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

SUMMER 2017

MISSISSIPPI RECEIVES SIX DIRECT COMPONENT GRANT AWARDS AND AMENDED MULTIYEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN APPROVED

On June 28, 2017, Governor Phil Bryant announced that the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) has issued grant awards for six Mississippi RESTORE projects.

“This is good news as we continue to propose and implement projects to support the economic and natural resource recovery of the Mississippi Gulf Coast and the entire Gulf region resulting from the oil spill,” Gov. Bryant said. “I had the opportunity to meet with Secretary Steven Mnuchin in May to discuss Mississippi’s priorities. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and Treasury have, and will continue to work together, to improve the processes which will result in additional awards in the imminent future.”

The projects include the Mississippi Aquarium (\$17 million), the Stennis Hangar (\$2 million), Off-Bottom Oyster Aquaculture (\$1 million), Fiber Optic Infrastructure Planning (\$500,000), Port Bienville Trans-Loading Terminal Facility Completion (\$8 million), and the Jackson County Corridor Connector Road- Phase I (\$10.2 million).

These projects are part of Mississippi’s Initial Multiyear Implementation Plan (MIP) and were proposed to the governor by the GoCoast 2020 Commission and announced in December 2015. On July 7, 2017, Treasury announced the acceptance of Mississippi’s amended MIP, which includes an additional \$27.34 million in projects.

The initial MIP was amended to include the following projects: Mississippi Gulf Coast Water Quality Improvement Program (\$11 million), University of Southern Mississippi Oyster Hatchery and Research Center (\$7.7 million), Jackson County North Rail Connector Planning Assistance (\$550,000), National Oceans and Applications Research Center (NOARC) Planning Assistance (\$2.75 million), Salvation Army Center of Hope (\$1.32 million), Mississippi Coliseum and Convention Center Site Capacity Improvements (\$3.52 million), and MDEQ Planning Assistance (\$500,000).

With the addition of these projects, the projects announced to date for RESTORE Act Direct Component Funds (Bucket 1) totals \$80.9 million.

The RESTORE Act requires the state, through MDEQ, to prepare the MIP for Direct Component Funding, which is administered by Treasury.

Some of the eligible activities that can be included in the state’s MIP include: restoration and protection of natural resources; mitigation of damage to natural resources; workforce development and job creation; improvements to state parks; infrastructure projects, including ports; coastal flood protection; and, promotion of tourism and Gulf seafood.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: MISSISSIPPI AQUARIUM



For more information about the Mississippi Aquarium, visit their website at www.msaquarium.org.

Direct Component funds and leveraged funding from the City of Gulfport will be used for construction of the Coastal Community Gallery Building on the Mississippi Aquarium campus. The Coastal Community Gallery Building is anticipated to be approximately 42,000 square feet (including tanks), and it will serve as the primary aquarium building.

The Mississippi Aquarium is set to open in 2019, and will contain 1 million gallons of both salt and fresh water. It will contain over 80,000 square feet of exhibits connected by landscaped walkways with plantings representing all seven Physiographic Regions of Mississippi.



WWW.RESTORE.MS



WINNERS OF THE BEACH OUTFALLS CHALLENGE ANNOUNCED AT SHOWCASE

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) announced the three winners of its Beach Outfalls Challenge:

- Allen Engineering and Science (Jackson, Miss.)
- MMMM (Biloxi, Miss.)
- Sustainable Active Landscapes Team (On-beach) (Bay St. Louis, Miss.)

MDEQ also recognized the top college team, Ian Hunter Land Arch from Virginia Tech, and the top high school team, The EnviroNeers of Madison Central High School in Madison, Miss.

“The Beach Outfalls Challenge sparked truly innovative thinking among people who care deeply about the water quality of the Mississippi Sound,” said Gary Rikard, MDEQ Executive Director. “We’re thrilled with promising solutions presented by our finalists and are looking forward to developing and testing them further.”

The Beach Outfalls Challenge kicked off in January, when teams initially registered to participate. After a review of design submissions, a panel of judges named 12 teams as SemiFinalists in April. The public had an opportunity to vote on the solutions,

which factored into the identification of the six Finalist teams. Each team prepared a presentation detailing its solution for judges to evaluate at the Beach Outfalls Challenge Showcase, held at the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Park Campus in Long Beach. Winners were announced at the end of the event.

The other Finalist teams were:

- GSRC/Compton (Baton Rouge, La.)
- Sustainable Active Landscapes Team (In-stream) (Bay St. Louis, Miss.)
- Sustainable Outfall Solutions (Biloxi, Miss.)

When funding becomes available, MDEQ will move to the next phase of this project which includes procuring engineers to fully develop these winning design ideas and building pilot-scale demonstrations to determine each design’s viability for improving water quality.

For more information about the Beach Outfalls Challenge and to learn more about the winners, visit www.beachoutfallschallenge.org.

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

“Where can I find more information about restoration in Mississippi?”

WWW.RESTORE.MS

MDEQ uses www.restore.ms to post, announce, and educate stakeholders about restoration activities occurring in Mississippi and around the Gulf Coast. Some of the key features of the website include:

MISSISSIPPI RESTORATION STORYMAP:

The storymap is an interactive map that displays restoration projects in Mississippi approved by the NRDA Trustees, funded by NFWF, or funded by the RESTORE Act by geographic location. This tool helps stakeholders visualize the types of projects occurring along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. [View the storymap.](#)

CURRENT PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

MDEQ is committed to providing the public with as much information as possible pertaining to the BP

restoration process. MDEQ provides details of procurement by funding source, as well as currently open procurement opportunities on the [Commitment to Transparency](#) page of the website.

INFORMATION BY FUNDING SOURCE:

The website is categorized by funding source: NRDA, NFWF, RESTORE. Each category contains information about the projects being funded, plans and reports, and frequently asked questions.

PROJECT PORTAL:

Do you have ideas for a specific restoration project in your area? Use the [Mississippi Restoration Project Portal](#) to submit your idea into MDEQ’s database to be evaluated for consideration as a restoration project.

