

Economic Recovery Assessment of Santa Rosa County

Discussion Issues:

- Planning and Infrastructure-Recovery Efforts (Projects Planned):
 - No restoration projects planned directly related to Oil-Spill and no adverse impacts to Santa Rosa County's Long-Range plans
 - Alternate U.S. 90 route needed to relieve congestion through Milton's Historic District
 - 3-Mile Bridge from Gulf Breeze to Pensacola improvements needed
 - Eglin Expansion will have positive impacts on Milton's economy
- Areas of Growth:
 - Industrial Parks
 - Pace, Florida
 - Whiting Aviation Field
- Major Industries (Top 4 in order of largest to smallest):
 - Military, Defense, and Aerospace
 - Healthcare
 - Agriculture
 - Tourism (27% of economy)
- Major Concerns/Challenges Identified by Santa Rosa County participants:
 - Loss of revenue from tourism
 - Oil Spill clean-up efforts for long-term impacts (Tropical events bringing more debris after BP crews have gone)
 - Decline in development (this was down prior to Oil-Spill)
 - Delays in permitting acquisition
 - Fear of being forgotten-perception that NW Florida is not considered a concern by Governor
 - Credit market
 - Lack of awareness of available assistance
 - Confidence and uncertainty related to upcoming tax structure (Federal and State taxes)
 - Eroding property values (these were down prior to Oil-Spill)
 - Negative Media releases that do not represent reality
 - Unemployment after clean-up is over

- Lack of trained workforce (unrelated to Oil-Spill)
 - Inability to attract new businesses (unrelated to Oil-Spill)
 - Unpaid BP claims
 - Complicated processes related to SBA loans
 - Funding for winter market and next season's tourism and marketing proposals
 - Visit Florida not promoting NW Florida (Visit Florida has not had any people on the ground in Milton, Gulf Breeze, or Navarre)
 - Moratorium on oil drilling negatively impacting NW Florida-Louisiana economy greatly impacts NW Florida
 - School Funding-Stimulus Flam-Out
 - Feds should pay claims to businesses and the BP fight should be done by the Feds
- Santa Rosa County participants- proposals for near-term recovery:
 - Funding for advertising to turn around perception that NW Florida is covered in oil (need funds immediately-cannot wait till 2011 Legislative Session, have to start planning these ads now)
 - Technical assistance with claims, loans, etc., applications
 - Maintain clean-up efforts
 - Fast track permitting processes (mostly related to the Federal NPDES permits- State permitting has a relatively fast turnaround)
 - Extending Federal Subsidized Employment Program deadline (Florida has about \$150M remaining and the program will expire 9-30-10)
 - Delaying Federal regulatory requirements, i.e., Software System Upgrades (we should have a list of others from Santa Rosa County soon)
 - Notification of existing Federal and State programs available for assistance
 - Reassurance from the Feds and the State regarding new taxes planned
 - Disaster Zone (Go-Zone) designation
 - Permit and fee reductions
 - Maintain pressure on BP to pay claims (it appears since the well was capped, a decline in response has occurred)
- Santa Rosa County participants- proposals for long-term recovery:
 - Funding for Workforce Training and attracting new businesses (this was proposed as a "package deal" issue. Training people for new jobs that are not there is not helpful, and businesses won't come if the workforce is non-existent)
 - Long term monitoring from BP for future oil impacts on the ecosystem

- Federal investment restrictions on real estate purchases and loans should be more flexible
- Transportation infrastructure
 - Alternate U.S. 90 route through Milton
 - 3 Mile Bridge improvements
- Avoid sprawl into the rural areas-encourage growth in the major business districts

The final report from the Federal/NADO team should be sent to us after it is finalized.