

State of Alabama

Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006

Disbursement Justification

Background:

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) was enacted by Congress in 2006 and significantly enhances outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing activities and revenue sharing in the Gulf of Mexico. Among other things, GOMESA provides for enhanced sharing of leasing revenues with Gulf producing states and the Land & Water Conservation Fund for Coastal Restoration projects. The GOMESA authorizes uses of the proceeds for the following purposes:

1. Projects and activities for the purposes of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses;
2. Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources;
3. Implementation of a federally-approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan;
4. Mitigation of the impact of outer Continental Shelf activities through the funding of onshore infrastructure projects;
5. Planning assistance and the administrative costs of complying with this section.

Proposed Project Description:

The proposed project requests funding for the installation, operation, and maintenance of a stream-gaging station at Fish River on Baldwin County Road 32. The stream-gaging station will aid in forecasting floods, as well as flood alerts. The program budget is \$87,250.00 which includes the installation and operation for 2 years. The Baldwin County Commission will provide funding to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to install two-dimensional, side-looking Acoustic Doppler Velocity Meter (ADVM). This funding will also support the calibration and 2-year operation of the stream gage. The USGS will monitor and record continuous river stage and velocity at predetermined intervals, document manual discharge measurements, and compute mean velocity.

Through prior working agreements, the USGS and the Baldwin County Commission will manage the construction, installation, and operation of a continuous-record stream-gaging station on Fish River that will monitor both river stage and streamflow. Data will be recorded and logged at 15-minute intervals and transmitted via GOES (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite) every hour. The data will be displayed on the USGS web site at <http://al.water.usgs.gov/data> and updated hourly. This data is publicly available for use by planners, businesses, emergency managers, science research programs, educational programs, and the general public. The new data will be coordinated with information from existing stream-gaging stations on Magnolia River and Styx River, and a rain gauge at Fish River near Silverhill, AL.

Without this station, flood conditions on Fish River are more difficult to track. Without the data to predict the time and magnitude of floods, local officials cannot take the planning steps necessary to accommodate the stormwater generated from those major flood events.

The project must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and codes of the federal, state, and local governments.

Project Duration:

This project is expected to last 27 months (i.e., 3 months to procure and install + 24 months of calibration, operation, and maintenance).

Start Date: January 1, 2019

End Date: March 31, 2021

Proposed Budget:

New Stream-Gaging Stations on Fish River at Baldwin County Road 32	Cost
Construction/Installation Costs	\$ 33,250.00
Calibration and Operation (Year 1)	\$ 30,400.00
Calibration and Operation (Year 2)	\$ 23,600.00
TOTAL:	\$ 87,250.00

Nexus to Authorized Use:

This project meets the criteria set forth in authorized use; projects and activities for the purpose of coastal protection, including conservation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, and infrastructure directly affected by coastal wetland losses.

Submitted by:

Name (typed): Frank Burt, Jr.

Signature: _____

Commissioner,
Baldwin County Commission

Approved:

Name (typed): Christopher M. Blankenship

Signature: _____

Commissioner,
Alabama Department of Conservation
and Natural Resource