



# SANTA ROSA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

R. Lane Lynchard, Vice Chairman, District 5  
Santa Rosa Administrative Offices  
6495 Caroline Street  
Milton, Florida 32570-4592



May 7, 2010

The Honorable Charlie Crist  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Crist:

As you are well aware, we are facing an unprecedented environmental crisis. While the actual effects upon our shores and waters are unknown, we must do all we can to protect our waters, our environment, and our livelihoods.

Santa Rosa County is fortunate to be home to extensive inland waters, which includes sandy beaches, bays, estuaries, riprap, tidal flats, peat shores, salt marshes, sea grass, and soft bottom habitats. Our waters are home to countless grass beds, oyster bars and tidal flats that serve as the nursery for many species vital to the health of the ecosystem. Protecting these inland waters is of utmost importance.

Any oil entering this system will come from the west through Pensacola Pass. Escambia County, to our west, has deployed a boom system inside the pass to divert and skim oil coming through the pass. Santa Rosa County has submitted a plan to place booms across several local bridges that bisect our bays and other bodies of water. This will give us another line of defense to the intrusion of oil. This plan was submitted through the EM Constellation program on May 1 and approved on May 5, and then denied earlier today. While the plan was approved, Santa Rosa County is currently responsible for procuring a contractor to perform the work.

Preliminary estimates for the plan exceed \$6,000,000 per month. This equates to over 12 percent of our annual ad valorem tax revenue. Given the open ended need for protection we now face, as an elected official I cannot commit the county to such an obligation without guarantees in place that we will be reimbursed. As a county commissioner I am faced with an untenable choice, either do nothing and leave our fate to chance or implement the plan and risk bankrupting the county.

BP has stated in the media as often as it can that it will pay 100 percent of all costs to contain and cleanup this spill. While it sounds good on television and makes for positive news in the press, Santa Rosa County cannot bet our future on statements in the media. We need assurances that BP will pay for the deployment of this protective booming system necessitated by their accident.

This plan, if effective, will protect some of the cleanest waters in the panhandle of Florida. Santa Rosa County has almost 100 miles of inland shoreline. The plan initially approved by unified command calls for the deployment of less than 10 miles of boom to provide our best chance of protecting this priceless resource.

We need assurances that this plan will be put into action immediately by the unified command or a guarantee that any costs incurred by Santa Rosa County to execute the additional approved booming areas will be reimbursed. It may not be completely effective, but it is our Alamo, where we will make our stand to preserve the heartbeat of our county.

I cannot stand by and hope for the best. We need action. We need help. Once the oil is in our bays and waterways it is too late. We only have one chance to stop intrusion, and that is to get this plan implemented before the oil arrives. It has already been approved once by the unified command. Given that the residents of Santa Rosa County had no hand in this man-made calamity, they should not be asked to foot the resulting bill.

As someone who grew up fishing and boating in Santa Rosa County, my heart is heavy knowing that my 6 year old son may not enjoy those same experiences. Please do anything in your power to help us get the resources we need to implement this plan. Like so many counties in Florida, we have a history and an economic livelihood that is married to the water. Help us preserve that history and protect our natural resources for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Respectfully,



R. Lane Lynchard



## Update: Boom Cell Coordination Approval with Recommendations

[Mission List](#)
[Mission](#)

Mission #	64
Current Status:	Tasked
Incident:	DEEPWATER HORIZON

Author:	BoomCellCoord	Desk:	BoomCell	Entered:	2010-05-05 10:39
Last Modified by:		Desk:		Modified:	

Request Priority	Urgent
Resource Request Status	Tasked
Resource ETA	2010-05-05 10:00

### Status Narrative

Priority Boom Request has been approved with the following recommendations: utilize the deflection boom (staggered chevron) strategy. This will enable the collection of oil while keeping the navigation channel open. <http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/os/Pages/Boom-Deploy.html> Approved for funding, submit documentation for payment. Forwarded to Area Command for approval.

Be sure and define any other ESFs that are coordinated with to fulfill this mission. Provide updates for all ESFs performing activities to fulfill this mission.

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