

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AND
THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
AND
THE CITY OF PASCAGOULA

This Memorandum of Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into between the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (“MDEQ”), the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (“MDMR”), and the City of Pascagoula (the “City”), collectively the “Parties”, to provide access to the City-owned portions of Round Island for the purposes of implementing and managing restoration activities related to the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, MDEQ plans to conduct a restoration project, such as beneficial use and/or living shorelines adjacent to a portion of Round Island owned by the City of Pascagoula and will perform habitat management activities on recently acquired lands on a portion of Round Island (collectively, beneficial use, living shorelines, and habitat management are the “Restoration Project”). The Restoration Project will provide for the restoration of natural resources injured by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Mississippi acquired title to 17.36 acres, being the privately owned portion of Round Island on or about March 16, 2021, which requires habitat management; and,

WHEREAS, MDMR manages the Coastal Preserve Areas owned by the State of Mississippi pursuant to the Coastal Wetlands Protection Act, Miss. Code Ann. § 49-27-1, *et seq.*; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pascagoula owns approximately 3.80 acres above the high-water mark, being portion on the northern end of Round Island acquired via a grant from the federal government in 1986 under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, being the former location of the historic Round Island Lighthouse; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pascagoula and Michael D. Watson, Jr., the Secretary of State of the State of Mississippi have entered into a Use Agreement Regarding Public Trust Tidelands and Recording of Boundary Survey dated _____ and recorded in Book _____, Pages _____, of the Land Deed Records of the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Jackson County, Mississippi; and,

WHEREAS, the City wishes to support MDEQ’s efforts to implement the Restoration Project;

THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree that:

The City will allow MDEQ and MDMR permanent access to the City-owned portion of Round Island for the purposes of implementing the Restoration Project, including conducting ongoing habitat management activities pursuant to the Round Island Coastal Preserve Management Plan (“Attachment A”). The City will continue to have access to the City-owned portion of Round Island.

The State agrees to maintain the current use and not change the current use of the City-owned portion of Round Island.

The State will continue to allow the public recreational access to Round Island in accordance with the federal conditions applicable to the City-owned portion of the island and in accordance with Title 22, Part 19, Rules and Regulations for the Use of State-Owned Coastal Preserve Areas, applicable to the State-owned portion of the island.

City of Pascagoula

Jay Willis, Mayor

Date: _____

Karen Kennedy, City Clerk

Date: _____

**Mississippi Department of
Environmental Quality**

Chris Wells, Executive Director

**Mississippi Department of Marine
Resources**

Joe Spraggins, Executive Director