



Council Minutes

June 14, 2010
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Vice Chair, Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Vice Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Vice Mayor Michele King, City of Gulfport
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Council Member Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County gubernatorial appointee
Ms. Laura Woodard, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida
Ms. Pamala Vazquez, Alt., Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Past Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County gubernatorial appointee
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District

OTHERS PRESENT

John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough County
Will Russell, Resident, Manatee County
William Pastori, Resident, Manatee County
Pete Peters, Attorney, Dye Deitrich, Lake Lincoln LLC
Vicki Parsons, Editor, Bay Soundings
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD
Patricia Hubbard, CFO, Hubbard Properties LLC
Bev Griffiths, Chair, Tampa Bay Sierra Club
Patricia Kiesyzis, Sierra Club
Saron Joy Kleitson, The Connection Partner
Cori Cutter, SWFWMD

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Ms. Lori Denman, Recording Secretary
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
Ms. Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Commissioner Jack Mariano, TBRPC Chair, was not present at the beginning of the meeting due to an emergency Pasco County Budget meeting. Vice Chair Collins called the meeting to order and chaired the first few agenda items.

Call to Order – Vice Chair Collins

The June 14, 2010 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Andy Núñez, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary - None

Announcements: - Vice Chair Collins

Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey was welcomed back to the Council.

Councilor Bob Matthews was thanked for sponsoring the refreshments.

The annual Financial Disclosure forms were distributed and Council members were asked to return them

to Bobbi Jaroy.

Project Get Ready: The kick off of our plug-in electric vehicle partnership will take place on Tuesday, June 22nd at Tropicana Field. The event runs from 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

1. Approval of Minutes – Secretary/Treasurer Bustle

The minutes from the May 10, 2010 regular meeting were approved (Kersteen/Todd).

2. Budget Committee – Secretary/Treasurer Bustle

A. The Financial Report for the period ending 04/30/10 was approved (Jonson/Newton)

B. 2010/2011 Initial Budget

The Budget Committee previously met and was presented with the 2010/2011 Initial Budget. The overall budget decreased \$221,000 primarily due to the following:

Federal Revenue decreased \$232,000 based mostly on the anticipated completion of Florida Catastrophic Planning in FY 2010 (\$181,000) and Economic Analysis & Disaster Resiliency (\$67,000) during FY 2011.

Fees & Contract revenue decreased \$89,000. Basis 5 Symposium and Statewide Regional Evacuation Study will be completed in FY 2010 accounting for a \$102,000 reduction. Additionally, DRI revenue is anticipated to decline by \$22,000. Integrating Nitrogen Goals with Planning, a new project, will add \$48,000.

Appropriated Fund Balance will increase \$90,000. This is the amount necessary to continue the core functions and programs of the Council and provide matching funds for several federal contracts. We expect additional funding opportunities to become available as the new fiscal year begins potentially reducing the amount of Appropriated Fund Balance needed.

The Budget Committee unanimously approved the proposed Initial Budget included in the agenda packets.

The 2010/2011 Initial Budget was approved (Kersteen/Newton)

3. Consent Agenda – Vice Chair Collins

A. Budget and Contractual

1. Approve Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) annual 2010/2011 contract which provides funding in the approximate amount of \$274,516 to fulfill numerous statutory responsibilities under Florida Statute Chapters 163, 186, 252, 380, and 403.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Chair to execute the Annual 2010/2011 contract with the Department of Community Affairs.

Staff contact: John Jacobsen, ext. 19

2. Approval to accept FY 2011/2012 contract between the DCA and the TBRPC for operation of the Tampa Bay Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC), District VIII.

Since 1988 with the passage of the Emergency Planning and Community Right

to Know Act (EPCRA), which created Local Emergency Planning Committees and State Emergency Response Commissions, the Tampa Bay LEPC has operated under the basic annual contract between the DCA and the TBRPC, with LEPC specifications detailed in Attachment A-2 of the old contract. Again this year, a separate contract between DCA and the TBRPC for LEPC operations is offered. Funding for the LEPC remains unchanged at \$40,909. The Scope of Work for the LEPC remains unchanged and Quarterly Reports for the LEPC will go directly to the Division of Emergency Management, rather than be included in the TBRPC Quarterly Report which is submitted to DCA.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the LEPC contract with DCA.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

B. Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - May 2010
2. IC&R Database - May 2010

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None

D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR) - None

E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports

DRI # 66 - Tara, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve staff report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

F. Annual Report Summaries (ARS)/Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)

1. DRI # 66 - Tara, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Manatee County
2. DRI # 98 - Sabal Center, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Hillsborough County
3. DRI #129 - Seven Oaks, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Pasco County
4. DRI #211 - Meadow Pointe, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Pasco County
5. DRI #239 - River Club Park of Commerce, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve staff report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

G. DRI Status Report

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

1. DCA # 10-2, Pasco County (proposed)
2. DCA # 10-1ER, City of Dade City (adopted)
3. DCA # 10-1ER, City of Indian Rocks Beach (adopted)
4. DCA # 10-1AR, City of Gulfport (adopted)

Action Recommended: For Information

Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

The following report(s) are presented for Council action:

1. DCA # 10-1CIE/AR, City of Safety Harbor (adopted)
2. DCA # 10-1CIE, City of New Port Richey (adopted)
3. DCA # 10-1, Hillsborough County (proposed)

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

The Consent Agenda was approved. (Beckner/Brown)

4. Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None

5. Review Item(s) or Any Other Item(s) for Discussion - None

Vice Chair Collins requested questions be asked after all of the speakers have had the opportunity to present. The Q & A will follow the last speaker, Ms. Harrelson.

6. Panel on Gulf Oil Spill

Mr. Bryon O. Griffith, Executive Director for EPA, Gulf of Mexico Program (GOMP)

The Gulf of Mexico Program, located at Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, is a public and private partnership that included state agencies, business representatives, broad environmental and public interests, and numerous Federal agencies working together to protect the natural resources and ensure the economic vitality of the Gulf region.

The Gulf of Mexico was characterized in 1992 as “America’s sea.” There is the east coast and the west coast, and the “best” coast, which is the Gulf. By virtue of the economic and ecological sustainability of the region, it is the most valuable marine ecosystem in the world and one that has to be protected into the future.

The GOMP has been in existence for 22 years. It is the largest and most comprehensive collaboration among federal, state, non-governmental and private interests in the country dealing with large marine eco-systems. The GOMP has been focused on a number of issues that threaten the overall ecology and economy in the region. Unfortunately, we are faced with the disaster that happened April 20th which brings the nation's attention to the Gulf.

An animated graphic of Louisiana wetlands was shown. We have lost at least 50% of the overall wetlands and seagrasses which sustained the coastal ecology in this region between 1880 and 1980. The graphic illustrated current model predictions go up to 2020. After 2050 the model predictions have New Orleans as an island, only reachable by bridge.

The fisheries bring 83% of total U.S. shrimp, 56% of total U.S. oyster, and over 40% of all U.S. marine recreational fishing take place in the Gulf. Those are huge numbers which show how important this system is. If you look at the economy, no matter how you approach this particular problem, our economy is exclusively linked to our ecology. It is the Gulf that makes this characterization work. If you extrapolated the six Mexican states and the five Gulf states as a country today, it would be the 6th largest economy in the world.

In 2005, the U. S. Commission on Ocean Policy produced an Ocean Action Plan Report to the President within a 90 day time frame. Out of that spawned the Gulf Governor's Alliance, the first time the region had actually regionalized. It was a model to be applied here that had been applied elsewhere very effectively. In March of 2006, the Governor's put forward a plan to combat a number of things that were capable of eroding the economy and ecology of the Gulf. They could not get critical mass around the issues so condensed it down to things they could make progress on. This was phenomenally successful.

The Gulf is the 3rd largest watershed in the world. We have hypoxic (dead) zones through 86% of our estuaries in the Gulf. There has been an increase in the monitoring of our beaches with increasing numbers of our beaches being closed. 55-60% of shellfish growing waters are conditionally or permanently closed to safe harvest based on pollution conditions surrounding them. When we look at the sea-level rise conditions, a 2' change in elevation would affect 50% of highway/rail miles and 70% of ports serving the Gulf coast system.

The reason the Alliance built its partnership around our program is that we have a unique substructure and foundation to integrate science resources and program response agencies. The Gulf Governor's Alliance was born on the back of leadership in Florida and was implemented to 99% within 3 years. As a consequence, the Ocean Commission and the U.S. Commission on Oceans Policies joined together to form the Joint Ocean Commission after both were sunsetted. Each year the Commission reports to the administration on the effectiveness of moving on critical ocean characterizations and key progress issues. The Gulf States Governor's Alliance and the GOMP supporting it have become the nation's leading regional Governor's model. It's a collaborative model that other coastal alliance frameworks are trying to copy as they get ready for President Obama's release for what will be characterized as a regionalized governance structure.

The Governor's released a second action plan last year with 97 actions. The importance of the issues today relative to the oil spill are science and technology necessary to answer questions that can't be answered here today. We are dead center in the middle of a crisis and the crisis will end and we will look backwards and we will either do something different tomorrow than what we've experienced today or it will be the same because that's where we are.

Five of the U.S. Senators within the Gulf region have instituted a bill called the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Act (SB1311). This is the third time this bill has come up in three different Congresses. This third introduction is rotated around Senator Wicker of Mississippi and it basically sits us with the two other great water bodies of the nation, the Great Lakes and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Gulf of Mexico is the most valuable and most important large marine ecosystem in the entire world so as a consequence to the manner of which the federal government can respond to the crisis, it's really on the lack of your voice. When we look at other regions they have a stronger, more unified voice than the Gulf does. As we look down the road we need to be stronger and more unified and regional.

Men and nations behave wisely once they have exhausted all the other alternatives. "-Abba Eban

The Alliance and the programs represented in the presentation have mobilized their resources. We have vetted all of our particular assets into much of the science monitoring decision support framework that you are experiencing right now.

Chair Mariano arrived and took over presiding the meeting.

Mr. Buck Sutter, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Mr. Sutter is NOAA's Deputy Regulatory Administrator for the Southeast Region, and NOAA's Regional Collaboration Team Leader, headquartered in St. Petersburg.

Since the oil spill I have been spending a lot of my time in that area. I work for NOAA and my main job has been in the fishery service. There are about 300 NOAA employees in the Tampa Bay area. We have the National Fisheries Southeast Regional Office in St. Petersburg. We have a large contingence of National Ocean Science people and they are working on the spill right now on the damage assessment part. We have aircraft at MacDill, including the hurricane hunters. We also have the weather service at Ruskin. A large part has been directly involved with the spill.

We are mainly the science portion of the spill and were involved within a few hours after the wellhead started spewing oil. We are the ones that project on a daily basis where the oil will flow, and we project out three days ahead based on currents, tides and wind. With the information of oil being under water in the plumes, we have NOAA vessels out there working on

that right now.

Mr. Sutter showed pictures of the Gulf and what it looks like offshore currently. The effort is ever increasing. The Coast Guard is in charge of the response and it is a unified command. We take our direction from the Coast Guard and NOAA is a part of the unified command along with EPA. The Gulf of Mexico Alliance is a states group. On the federal side we support that financially and also with a lot of our staff. This is a true partnership. The Gulf has been historically under-represented financially so the only way to get anything done was to partner together and we've been doing that very successfully on the science side since the 1980s and the fishery surveys. The importance is having a harmonized effort where everyone is working together on issues that we all agree on. These are ecosystem problems impacted by this oil spill.

As soon as the spill happened we wanted to measure and get an idea of what the impact was going to be, similar to Hurricane Katrina. In order to do that we had to hustle out there and get preliminary samples of the resources. Our administrator of NOAA, who is a scientist of world note, has been directing a lot of our work and we've gone out and have done surveys not only on the numbers of fish but also because of the issues of seafood safety. We wanted to get it before the oil got into the areas to use as a baseline of the water, the bottom and the fish tissue. Our office in St. Petersburg is the office that is setting all those closures.

NOAA is a science agency and we do the management and closures of federal waters. State waters in Florida are out to 9 miles and up to 200 miles. We have been doing this with FDA as a precaution to make sure that when people buy seafood from the Gulf of Mexico they know it's safe to eat.

NOAA is also doing the following:

- Calculating oil flow from the Deep Water Horizon site to estimate total release of oil.
- Conducting aerial surveys of protected species distribution and abundance. We are working with the University of Florida looking at causes of death in turtles, etc. to see if the deaths are caused by the oil spill or dispersants.
- Measuring distribution and magnitude of subsurface dispersed oil and dispersant through acoustics, fluorescence studies, water sampling and other technologies using NOAA Research vessels and partners.
- Tracking surface oil and dispersant fate and transport.

Mr. Sutter showed a graphic of projections of where the oil is and where, based on probability it will be. This graphic is updated on a daily basis. NOAA is also involved with the Loop Current. There have been a lot of questions concerning the loop current and if it will bring oil down to the Keys and up the east coast. There is a lot of concern about that. One of our jobs is to look at where the currents are, is there oil in those areas, and what is the future of that? The fishery closures are updated daily. The loop current will sometimes go up into the Gulf and then back out. It comes in south of Cuba, up into the Gulf, and then out north of Cuba. Sometimes it will come up to almost the Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama area. Other times it retreats almost just north of the Keys. When the spill first happened it was coming way up in the Gulf. Not long after it pinched off. Right now the loop current is very south for this time of the year.

Hopefully they will get the well capped before too much longer. We all hope that, no matter who you are. The impact of this oil will go on for years and years and years. NOAA, along with EPA, is responsible for determining what those impacts are, not only on birds, dolphins and turtles and seagrass but also on the human element. People are scared. They don't know what to do. The social impact will have high significance. NOAA will be involved with studying that along with other state agencies.

There have been over 300 burns that have been done in the Gulf. They trawl the oil up to the surface and light it on fire. They had one burn that lasted up to six hours. We are looking at the deep sea, underwater plume to figure out what that means. Basically it turns out that there are underwater plumes of oil but they are broken up by the dispersants. The dispersants have gotten a lot of attention, and rightly so. This does break down very quickly in the environment. After five days it has completely dissipated. This was a decision of looking at something bad and something worse. There is no good solution in how to break up the oil so that was a decision that was made by the Coast Guard. That is a factor that we need to figure out - what is the impact? There is a natural seep of about 50 million gallons of oil every year, estimated, throughout the Gulf of Mexico. Fortunately there is a bacteria ecology based on oil so there are organisms that eat oil naturally in the Gulf. That is to our benefit.

It is having an impact. Another thing we do are surveys on dolphins and whales. Mr. Sutter showed a picture of a whale in the midst of oil and dolphins swimming in the oil. This is going to be a long term impact and this is where the partnership that we have with the state and other federal agencies will come into play. We are planning right now and utilizing the partnerships that we already have. Certainly it is a bad situation but we have our best scientists involved and we have received a tremendous amount of attention and support on what's going on in the Gulf. I hope that we can use it in the long term and start thinking about what we are really doing with our environment in the Gulf that is extraordinarily rich and valuable and we need to make sure we are protecting it and utilizing it in an intelligent manner.

Captain Tim Close, U. S. Coast Guard, St. Petersburg

Captain Close is the Sector Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard, St. Petersburg and is responsible for essentially the entire west coast of Florida, from Taylor County down to and including Collier County.

I am going to assume that everyone has a slight basic understanding of what's been happening with the oil spill. Updated projectories were provided of the oil spill. The outlooks for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were shown in a graphic and there were slight changes. Nothing too major as far as the extent of the spread of the oil. The offshore Surface Oil Forecast represented what is caught in the eddy, right now. It is important to note that while it looks like a lot of oil on the graphic it actually is a very thin sheen on the surface. Daily flights are continuing to look at this with NOAA observers, Coast Guard, and Florida EPA observers, flying north into the Panhandle and as far south as the Tortugas. So far everything has stayed far offshore and is caught in the eddy current.

There is interaction between the eddy and the actual loop current. In the graphic provided by

NOAA you can see what the loop current is doing. The eddy is separated from the loop current. It separated about three weeks ago. Last week there was some indication that it might be re-attaching and the word we are getting from the scientific folks this morning is that it definitely is not re-attaching, it's just that they are close enough together that there is a little current interaction between the two. Nothing significant and nothing that they think is going to increase any risk to the Keys or the southeast coast of Florida.

A graphic from Monday morning was shown. Captain Close pointed out two light green stripes. There are two vessels located there (at BP's expense) that are moving back and forth as century vessels, looking for any oil entrapment or any tar balls that would be caught in the loop current. They have been out there for the better part of a week and our intention is to keep them out there almost indefinitely.

The next graphic in the presentation shows Captain Close's area of responsibility, everything inside the red line area. Looking at the west coast of Florida, moving westward, there is a gray area which is an arbitrary 94 mile line that was set up and is being used as a trigger. It's not a trigger as to when we are going to start laying boom, it's a trigger for our next decision point for the Coast Guard. We set that up initially when the spill first happened. BP was involved in that as well as Florida DEP and the Coast Guard, NOAA, the Dept. of Interior was involved, Florida Dept. of Health, Dept. of Environmental Management, Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation Commission - we had a real unified effort to help define where this trigger line was. From the Tampa Bay area we are about 130 miles away from that edge of uncertainty and that's still outside the trigger point. Given the vagaries of the predictions, there has been two or three times when the edge of uncertainty actually crossed into the trigger point. We did what we said we were going to do. We sat down and took a look at that, recognized that everything was in that loop current. The following day when the model came out with the long term forecast, the uncertainty had moved back out. It's just the nature of the modeling.

There are a lot of drift buoys that have been put in the Gulf of Mexico just to track this current motion. Up north, where the spill actually is, you can see that most have not moved very far. You can see the ones in the eddy have completed almost a full circle and there was one that was put in a couple of weeks ago that actually made the conversion and got caught in the loop current a little and is now north of the Tortugas.

The next graphic shows in the top left corner what the drifters look like. The larger graphic is not a prediction of oil, that's a prediction of historically where all of these drift buoys that were put in the Gulf in 1997-1998 and the graphic shows where cumulatively they all went. An important thing to note is that if you take a look immediately along the west coast of Florida, you don't see a lot of drifter motion that moved into that area. The further south you get the more clear space there is. That's the nature of the currents in the Gulf of Mexico that work near shore, in the shallow water off the west Florida shelf to keep a lot of the currents out in the deeper water.

Captain Close provided detailed updates. The threat to us on the west coast is low and it remains low. The threat, what we predicted from the beginning, remains. The threat to us on the west

coast would only be in the form of tar balls, not actual sheen. The top hat device that BP put on the well about 2 weeks ago is bringing, on average, 15-16,000 barrels of oil a day to the surface from the top of the blow out preventer. That's going to the drill ship Enterprise and is being processed and the oil is going into a tanker. At some point, either late Monday or early Tuesday everything is in place to connect another pipe to the bottom of the blow out preventer. Some of the piping that they used when they tried to kill the well a couple of weeks ago they are expecting anywhere between 6-10,000 additional barrels of oil to be pulled out to bring to the surface under a controlled environment. That's oil that is not spilling. There were 21 skimmers working on Sunday, right around the wellhead. These are large commercial skimmers and they skimmed over 5,000 barrels of oil and water mixture. Off of the Mobile area, which includes the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Mississippi, they skimmed over 7,300 barrels of oil and water mixture on Sunday. There were 14 burns on Sunday for a total of 22 hours of burning and the burning is taking place with fresh oil on the scene. Just in the Mobile area they have over 1,900 vessels of opportunity. Some of them are out as centennials looking for oil, some are out actively skimming, some are laying boom. All of them are on BP's dime and the majority of those are local folks from the area and commercial vessels.

When we set up our incident command post in early May we had our area contingency plan. The plan has been in place, it's been exercised, it's updated frequently, we exercise it annually. We conducted a series of workshops with every county up and down the west coast of Florida. We gave the county folks an opportunity to review the plan again, to re-validate it, and to revise it for this threat or to revise it to identify or recognize additional environmentally sensitive areas. It's going to take several months to get all of that incorporated electronically, but in the meantime we're ready to go with all of the information that came out of that, it's just a little more hard copy.

We have a plan in place, a framework for how to deal with volunteers working very closely with Tallahassee and the www.volunteerflorida.org folks. We have a plan in place to decontaminate any ships coming to the Tampa Bay area and I'm happy to point out that we haven't had to implement that plan at all, so far. We have a framework in place on how to deal with wildlife that might be impacted by this that relies heavily on existing organizations up and down the west coast. We have a detailed plan in place on how we are going to handle reports of tar balls or actual tar balls that come in. To date we've had numerous reports of tar balls. One of them was actually petroleum product. It was handed to us in a baggie from a good Samaritan that said he picked it up off the Fort DeSoto area. He gave it to us late on a Saturday afternoon. We went out the following Sunday and found nothing floating. We sent the sample to our lab and it was 100% confirmed that it was not related to this spill. Every other tar ball reported has either been sea critters - some alive and some dead, algae, one chunk of asphalt off a road, some dirt, and everything that is there already. We don't mind the reports, we are just happy they are false so far.

We recently set up a Florida Peninsular Command Post in Miami, partly to relieve myself and my folks of a little of the burden of what were, at one point, seven or eight conference calls per day. They are doing additional planning out of Miami to actually create a little more consistency on the peninsula part. Key West is concerned, Miami is concerned, some folks up the east coast of

Florida were getting concerned as well so we are taking more of a peninsula approach to this. We are ready here, we have the plans in place, and *should* it reach a point that we actually have to start laying boom or doing something then we will gear up again.

Ms. Cathy Harrelson, Southeastern Regional Office Sierra Club

Ms. Harrelson is the Chair of the Sierra Club's Coastal Task Force. She also serves on the county's environmental science forum, the local planning authority, and the Pinellas Transportation Task Force.

We are looking at this to see what we can do as communities and as individuals to save Florida's future. In 2006, Florida's U.S. Senators stood together to protect our coast from drilling, coming together to create the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) that protects our coast out to 234 miles from the Tampa Bay area. In 2009 the tourism community began to speak out. They have been hugely important in the coalitions and partnerships that we formed here to get things done to stop coastal drilling in the legislature and hopefully to continue to have an affect on drilling in our federal policy.

On February 13, 2010, thousands of Floridians stood together on over 90 beaches. The press conference held at the Sirata Beach was led by Congressman Bill Young who has been a decade long proponent of protection for the Tampa Bay area against drilling. Florida's elected officials along the Gulf coast stood together in bi-partisan opposition to offshore oil drilling in the eastern Gulf. We were joined by the tourism industry in this effort. We have a \$65 billion tourism industry and we are all learning now how critical that is. Senators Dennis Jones and Charlie Justice were a part of this effort. We joined hands to say make our energy clean and make it American. That's a very important message going forward.

The founder of Hands Across the Sand is Dave Rauschkolb. He owns three restaurants in Seaside, in the Panhandle, he is very worried about his business, and his message is: "no to offshore oil drilling, and yes to clean energy. We are drawing a line in the sand against offshore oil drilling along America's beaches. No one industry should be able to place entire coastal economies and marine environments at risk with dangerous, dirty mistakes." We joined hands to warn that sooner or later someone would make a big mistake.

The oil drilling myth that the process is safe, we all know what happened to that myth. Human beings make mistakes and whatever happened on April 20th, we really did expect that this would happen. To this extent? No one could have predicted, but that is why we were standing out there in February on a very, very cold day, to say we don't want this to happen.

On May 7th, after the Deepwater Horizon accident, Senator Bill Nelson came to town and briefed Pinellas tourism officials, state legislators and environmental leaders.

Several graphics from NOAA taken in May were shown of the oil slick, surface oil near Pass-a-Loutre, Louisiana, and striped dolphins swimming among the oil. Also a close up of a tar ball

found on the beach in Dauphin Island, Alabama. This is what we may expect here. People have been trained to rescue animal victims and there is some question about if those trained volunteers will actually be able to do those things, actually be able to get out there and help. Turtles that have been cleaned are given toxiban (activated charcoal), their mouths are cleaned with mayonnaise, and they are given fluids and antibiotics.

The Sierra Club is creating teams to help people understand where they can go to volunteer. We are a part of Hands Across the Sand, which is now going to be a national event.

How do we get off our addiction to oil? It's a part of the way we live and it's going to take a lot to change but we have to recognize that we have a shared destiny and it's important to look at how we make those changes. One way is to change the way we get around and Hillsborough County is going to have the transportation initiative on their ballot in November and hopefully Pinellas will follow in 2012. This kind of thing not only generates jobs but a new vision for the community in how we build and how we live. We think it is very important.

A slide was shown of the communities who have spoken out against drilling by passing resolutions. Florida's newspapers join the chorus against drilling. The Wall Street Journal has done an amazing job on coverage.

We are seeing what we have at stake. 31% of Florida's total employment in 2006 comes from Gulf coast counties. 2.4 million jobs, 30% of Florida's state GDP (\$210 billion). What's worth more? The \$30.2 billion value of sustainable coastal dependent businesses, or what we could potentially get from the value of oil and gas reserves? Transforming our state from a tourist destination to an industrial site clearly detracts from our state's economic productivity, even if there were no more accidents. Coastal tourism in 2007 was \$25.36 billion, commercial fishing in 2006 was \$674 million, and in 2006 recreational fishing was \$5.79 billion. Total is \$31.82 billion. Those are big numbers and as we all know, those numbers are now at serious risk.

We need to safeguard our state's economic engine by opposing expended offshore oil exploration and drilling. At a minimum, keep the GOMESA protection zone of 234 miles west of Tampa. Our message is that we need new energy in America. The Gulf Coast Oil Spill Disaster highlights the importance of a new approach to energy. Of course we hold BP accountable, but in a way we are all accountable because we are all a part of this country. Congress needs to act now to pass comprehensive energy and climate legislation. This would create clean renewable energy jobs and cuts dangerous pollution. We are a part of a larger organization called Clean Energy Works.

Hands Across the Sand will hold a nationwide event on Saturday, June 26th. Virtually all of the Pinellas beaches and the Gandy bridge folks will be participating in Pinellas and elsewhere throughout the Tampa Bay area. We will come together to say we are drawing a line in the sand and we are joining together to do it. www.handsacrossthesand.com

Power Point presentation(s) can be found at www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm

Questions & Comments:

- Commissioner Beckner: I'm wondering if, from the Exxon Valdez and other oil disasters we have dealt with, what learnings are we applying to this situation?
- Captain Close: We are always capturing lessons learned, from this spill as well. There are some comparisons with Exxon Valdez and some that are valid and some that are not. The key thing to point out, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA90) was a direct result of the Exxon Valdez spill. It established some pretty substantial limits in liability and it also required vessel response plans - company response plans, facility response plans. It updated the area contingency plans. We are absolutely reaping the benefit of OPA90. The whole preparedness across the nation ratched up by a couple orders of magnitude by the passing of OPA90.
- Commissioner Beckner: Is there any science that's looking at the potential of everything changing and bringing things our direction if there is a tropical system that moves through the Gulf?
- Mr. Sutter: That's a big question that a lot of people have and our modelers from the hurricane center have been involved with that because when a hurricane comes, everything changes. It's all dependent upon what the storm brings, where it is located, and how it approaches. That is a wildcard variable which is impossible to predict. I don't know how many people were familiar, in 1978 or 1979 there was a spill off Campeche and that was 150 million gallons of similar oil and a similar spill. As we look at the environmental recovery of that I think there are some lessons learned from the science side. If folks are interested in that the HARTE Institute in Texas has a pretty good web site that has information on that.
- Commissioner Beckner: So then the possibility of the oil being displaced somewhere else is a real possibility in a tropical system?
- Captain Close: There are 100 different variables with a tropical storm coming in. As we saw when Katrina hit New Orleans there wasn't a lot of oil left floating after a storm that violent passed through. The violence of the storm also has an impact, not just to potentially spread. I don't want to leave you with an impression that a big slick that's hitting the marshlands of Louisiana, that the slick is going to show up somewhere else with a tropical storm coming in. The storm itself is going to create a huge disruption and the surf is going to impact that as well.
- Councilwoman Fernandez: When we talk about allowing drilling in the Gulf, that's totally from an American perspective. My question is, to what extent or is there any availability that other countries have access to drill somewhere in the Gulf because any spill from that would still impact.
- Mr. Griffith: There is a lot of drilling done in the Gulf by Mexico, and partners within Mexico by example. And of course the possibility of Cuba. It's going on today so we are at risk regionally, hence the mention of the Exxon spill. It goes back to my statement earlier about establishing a regional collaborative and share science and techniques and technology.

Councilwoman Fernandez: So let me ask you because right now we are very focused on the American objective to reduce the amount of drilling that would affect our beaches but in fact, those other countries - that would still be going on.

Captain Close: No ma'am, on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf nobody drills without the U.S.'s permission. MMS regulates all of that. There are some foreign flag drilling operations going on, but it's all done through the offices of MMS and it's done with U.S. permission. There is not a case that all of a sudden a Russian company shows up 20 miles off the beach and starts drilling.

Councilman Newton: I was in attendance at the Hands Across the Sand event in February and you are right, we have to get in the mind set of oil independence when we do more light rail and high speed rail and get to moving more people instead of cars. The first speaker said we neglected to put our eye into the middle of the problem, can you expand on that? And the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Bill, would that help with that? How are they related?

Mr. Griffith: Your characterization is correct, if we look backwards even over 50 days we didn't expect anything of this magnitude. If we looked backwards and could have imagined our way in science and the observing systems framework in place we would have answered a lot more of those questions. Have we neglected to basically begin to treat the system, as Dr. Sutter said, as a full ecosystem understanding all the dynamics in it and be able to make rationale decision support type of activities work more smoothly, absolutely. We could do a lot better. The bill that I mentioned moves into that direction, as do other bills representing many of the other program area agencies but it is investment and capacity that you have to install and maintain to be ready for the unexpected.

Councilman Newton: This question is for Captain Close. You said the Coast Guard learned a lot from the Exxon Valdez and it has helped a lot. What about the offshore rigs? From what I understand there was a thousand dollar price tag unit that could have separated or shut down this thing in phases that was not put into effect, but because of regulation they didn't have to use them.

Captain Close: I don't think it's correct to say that regulations didn't allow them. What you are talking about is the blow out preventer and there were numerous sets of rams that were supposed to work to close in. The investigation for that is on-going. I don't think they are even putting out updates on that. They held a couple of hearings that the Coast Guard has participated in as a part of that investigation. Eventually we are going to end up with a pretty good sense of what actually happened on this rig. I apologize, I don't have that information at this time.

Councilman Newton: We still have a lot of rigs out there right now operating?

Captain Close: Yes. It's important to note this rig was actually drilling. There are a limited number of drilling rigs. It was actually making a hole in the ground. There are a lot of other production facilities where the well is already in place and they are steadily producing. There are a lot more

production rigs than there are drilling rigs right now in the Gulf of Mexico.

Councilman Newton: You spoke about the eddy current and the loop current. You said they are separated now. We have a low out there. What affect would that have on the separation?

Captain Close: The big concern would be with the loop current when it went way up into the Gulf was that it was going to pick up some of the oil from the south end of the spill, take it down and deposit 1,000s of tar balls across the Florida Keys and the coral beds. The loop current, when it goes up past Miami into the West Palm Beach area is only just a couple of miles offshore. Here it's 80 to 100 miles offshore. The concern there was that oil caught in the loop current would actually put a lot of tar balls across the Keys and around the coast. For us on the west coast of Florida, the loop current wasn't that much of a concern because anything caught in there is going to move north to south and was going to stay away from us either way.

Councilman Newton: The tar balls that are being examined and then being determined that they are not coming from the spill - I heard reports of BP not wanting to give up samples of what's actually coming out of the ground.

Captain Close: I heard that as well and I don't know where that comes from. I think someone from USF mentioned that. They are working with NOAA and NOAA is a part of the unified command both here and in Louisiana and in fact, they were able to show in the NOAA report that came out, they compared a couple of the samples to the oil from the spill so I'm not sure what the nature of that is. We've been sending samples of stuff that's been found, just like tar balls that were found in Key West, they go up to a Coast Guard lab in Connecticut and we have samples of the oil from the spill and we are able to do a very quick fool proof comparison between them.

Mr. Kersteen: The Jones Act was suspended almost immediately by President Bush. When will President Obama suspend that act? I understand that some oil has been spilled after a tanker was filled up from the well and there was not another tanker to take over and fill it. If we could ask foreign governments to send their ships in, that's the reason I think the Jones Act should be suspended now. Also, I viewed the Huckabee Show last night and they had various people come in (scientists, engineers) and they also had some biodegradable stuff, including what looked like carpet pad and also insulation which absorbed the oil but keeps it separate from the water. When will BP entertain those individuals with those kind of clean up types of things.

Captain Close: It's a good question. There are a lot of misconceptions that are out there. There are no shortage of experts that want to go on TV with their idea, usually they are willing to sell their products as well. We've been using oil absorbing material just like what a lot of these experts have said, it doesn't soak up water, it soaks up oil. In the oil clean up side there's an

expression that goes along the lines of cost to throw out one of those pads and it costs like \$15 to \$20 to pick it up and dispose of it properly. A spill of this magnitude, that is not the mechanism of choice out on scene. They are using skimmers that are continuously operating vessels where they are skimming oil off the top. They are using aerial dispersants, and sub-sea dispersants. They are using booming up in the marshes, and some of the shoreline areas in Louisiana where it is liquid oil they are using that exact kinds of material now. Sometimes its in different shapes and sizes but its all the same basic stuff. When its tar balls coming up on the beach those absorbent pads don't work. It is like picking up Milk Duds, you have to go pick them up. That's what they are doing on the beaches in the Panhandle. Where there's liquid oil they are skimming and using the dispersants, and they are using material like that. I have not heard there was a spill on scene at a tanker. I know that the Enterprise is the drill ship that's processing the oil and has some storage capacity and they are off-loading into a tanker and they are using other shuttle tankers. I'm not aware that there has been Jones Act issues related to this spill. There is no fleet of foreign vessels standing by that we won't let in to help. There is Norwegian equipment that is being used, we've accepted equipment from a lot of other places.

Mr. Kersteen: Kevin Costner has the pump contraption. Is that being entertained by anyone?

Captain Close: This is the Kevin Costner centrifuge system that is working in conjunction with a company. The last I heard from a week or so ago was that they weren't able to get it working yet. "They" being the company that developed it. It didn't sound like it was that high tech to me, it sounded like it was a centrifuge. BP has a line and they are taking all kinds of input and suggestions from folks. Undoubtedly some of them are good and they have used a few of them. Some of them are "out there" and some are very well intentioned. Some are suggesting stuff that's already being done.

Ms. Todd: A lot of the questions I was going to ask have been asked, but I have one for Mr. Griffith. I understand that the Great Lakes Program and some of these other programs have been allotted over \$450 million for their efforts to keep the bays clean. Can you tell us how much the Gulf of Mexico Program has been allotted? Everyone in this room would like to see more attention given to the efforts of the GOMP and the alliance with NOAA and the other groups to really put the science into it at the same level or equal to some of these other programs.

Mr. Griffith: The numbers are not exact. The Great Lakes Program is funded this year at \$475 million. The Chesapeake Bay is in the \$60s of millions. The GOMP is at \$4.6 million. That will give you some idea.

Ms. Todd: So what could we do to help the GOMP get more support?

Mr. Griffith: The direct answer to your question is that the other regions are unified. They simply are looking backwards and many of them will not face the crisis that we are facing right now. They need to look forward and to the

regional approach with a unified sense of purpose and put in the framework that is more protective, particularly of science based programs. It's a statement of those regions that is in contrast to the Gulf region.

Councilman Langford:

What have we learned from the Louisiana response and recovery efforts that we could apply in the Tampa Bay region as far as what equipment to use, personnel, and so forth?

Captain Close:

The nature of the impact of Louisiana is substantially different. They are getting hit with a lot more liquid oil, a lot more of the slick, and a thicker looser product. Given the extra distance that we are away and the time that it would take the oil to travel, the threat here is slightly different - it's a much more weathered tar ball type of product. The lessons that we've learned from them, and BP has taken away from that as well, are related to organizing paid employees on large scale, working in remote areas. They have teams in Louisiana where they had to bring in housing for them on boats because you are that far out in the middle of nowhere in the marsh. It's about organizing volunteers, working with groups, getting the word out to the public. Those are some of the lessons learned there that we would be able to apply here as well.

Mr. Griffith:

Recognizing it's been since April 20th since the incident began, I would offer again that what I do is a broker of many information sets that basically deal with all matters in the Gulf. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from the experiences in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi that you should be evaluating right now. The volunteer force from outside the area had to come in and find their way into that volunteer framework. If you're not ready for that it gets to be a little hectic. There are techniques that are being used for the deployment of limited assets because there is not an unlimited asset supply to deal with this. Some of the techniques have been proven better than others. There is a literature search that can be done right now about what is happening, what has happened, how well it has happened that could inform this Council into the future.

Mayor Peters:

At the Governor's Roundtable discussion last week there was discussion about, are we being proactive to protect our water supply and our power plants? The State of Florida has more desalination plants than any other state in the country, with more than 120 of them. Since our power plants are cooled by either the Gulf of Mexico water or Tampa Bay, none of those systems can be compromised by oil. Are we being proactive? Are we doing anything to ensure that the citizens of this state will have enough drinking water, fresh water, and power to supply our energy needs during the most demanding time of the year?

Mr. Griffith:

I can speak to the federal side of that. EPA's responsibility from the very beginning in this unified team structure was to assess the potential drinking water threat and the other water intake threats. They are obviously permitted facilities throughout the region, we know them by name, place, right down to the actual permit calculations of how much they draw, where they get it from, etc. That goes in to the equation. To

answer your question however, all the speakers mentioned variables that could come into play that could limit the ability of some of those plants to operate if those conditions become contaminated. We are very well aware of them, and they are heavily mapped into the contingency plan. They would certainly be considered more than the sensitive deployment areas for protection. But those protections can be overwhelmed based on an unusual situation. If that is the case then the second action plan responding to that will actually have to unfold.

Captain Close:

I had a good meeting last week with Progress Energy, talking about this exact thing. The nuclear plant, the cold fire plants, the oil burning plants, they have plans in place already if there are water intake issues. The regulations that apply to those facilities require that they have plans in place should their water intakes be compromised. The scenario we are looking at here are tar balls. Floating tar balls when they come in. It's a floating threat. The water intakes for the power plants are anywhere from 20-25 feet sub-surface, they're not on the bottom either. They have filter systems in place already that work to keep seaweed out, to keep critters out, and all those kinds of things. It's the same with the desalination plants, their plans are in place. They come with enough boom already at those facilities, the small quantity that they need to take that into account. Absolutely that's being looked at and worked on.

Councilman Roff:

Senator Nelson addressed a group down in Sarasota and he has also been on this from day one. He's been calling for more active military intervention. This in no way reflects the Coast Guard. Can't we send a submarine down there to see if that plume actually does exist? Are you able to call for that?

Mr. Sutter:

The Navy is involved quite a bit already, especially the oceanographers, in helping map the current patterns, at the surface and at depth. We have several vessels out there right now trying to get a handle on what is called a plume. A plume can mean all kinds of different things. USF, Louisiana University and the NOAA and other university vessels have been out sampling to put a three dimensional picture to what that really means. We actually have some submarine-like sampling equipment that we got from Scripts that goes down and takes water samples from specific depths and locations where we found these areas. If I held up a glass and it looked absolutely crystal clear, that's how small the oil particles are and it's hard to find them. We are using acoustic and sound, also fluorescent type sampling to try to find those. As far as what we can do about it, that's another question. At this point I think they are trying to figure out how to describe it in three dimensions and where it's going.

Councilman Roff:

So I guess then, is it the opinion that the structure should remain the same as it is right now? Does Senator Nelson have an opinion that isn't shared by others?

Captain Close:

I would say, take a look at the existing structure and note that it's still in

place.

Council Member Jonson:

You talked about the framework for volunteers. I've gotten a lot of questions from people in Clearwater saying they want to volunteer, they want to do something but they don't know what to do or what will be done if we see tar balls.

Captain Close:

We've heard that from a lot of folks and they haven't heard back yet because there isn't a lot for volunteers to do right now. The best scientific support assessment was that now is not the time to go out and clean the shoreline in preparation for tar balls. You clean it now and you disturb all the wildlife, you would trample through some marsh areas when the threat is still low and it may never need to get done. Also, if you go clean the shoreline now and remove all of the vegetation there, two weeks from now you would have to go back and do it all again. What we focused on, and Tallahassee has a big piece of this, is a mechanism to take unaffiliated volunteers and hook them up with existing organizations that come with structure and leadership already. The county emergency managers told us that they can't handle 3,000 volunteers showing up un-associated with any organizations. They would much rather work with a much smaller number of organizations, many of which they already have a relationship with. Through www.volunteerfl.org folks we are going to try to take those unaffiliated people and actually associate them with other groups that have structure already so that if we reach a point where we do need to go do shoreline cleaning prior to impact, it's already been identified and worked out. We aren't there yet and the need doesn't exist right now yet either.

Council Member Jonson:

What about having people go and take hazardous courses?

Captain Close:

The intention is, from the start, we are not going to take volunteers off the street and have them go clean up oil. We are going to have people that BP is paying for to go clean up oil that have had the full training needed to actually do that. The training that we are looking at for volunteers is a very minimal training: don't play with the snakes, don't get sunburned, watch where you are walking, wear appropriate clothing, don't pick up heavy items by yourself. It's that basic kind of training. Some of that is taking place but we have not gone out very aggressively to orchestrate all of that because the need isn't quite there yet.

Vice Mayor Brown:

I have heard some people who have asked this question and I haven't heard a good answer to it. They said that one of the reasons this is such a difficult spill is because it is a mile deep. One of the reasons they are drilling a mile deep is because the companies are being pushed into the deeper water because of disallowing closer to shore. Could someone speak to that because I think it's a valid point. I think we need to reduce our dependence on oil, but if we are going to push them deeper and deeper we are going to have more and more problems in getting oil.

Mr. Griffith:

EPA is not the regulating agency, MMS is. I can't speak specifically to the moving into deeper water. I think what you are seeing is they are moving to the deeper water because of the availability of the resource.

The wells are exhausting their supplies in many of the shallow water regions. Someone had a map up of the density of the continental shelf drilling that's gone on for years, particularly gas, and this is moving many of the explorers into the deeper water.

Ms. Harrelson:

I think I had that slide. There are many many many leases out there now, and there have been for decades. Many of them are not even being drilled. The idea that this happened because we are being pushed further out, I don't think it makes sense to look at anymore. Oil is a diminishing resource and it is going to be more and more difficult to extract and there will be more environmental catastrophes. Sea level rise and climate change are very real valid concerns and we have wasted the transition time. The focus right now is, how do we turn the ship in 20 years? Twenty years is not very long to shift an economy from fossil based fuels. Is it going further out because that's where the resources are? Absolutely. And will there be more situations like this? Absolutely. The idea that this is a policy or an idea ology issue needs to be set aside. We really need to recognize that in change there is actually opportunity.

Councilman Newton:

The turtle that washed up, they couldn't determine whether it was from the oil or the dispersants or the vessels. Isn't the oil the reason that stuff is out there?

Mr. Sutter:

A lot of this happened before the oil even got close to the shore and from all the 200 some necropsies has shown that they all drowned. At that point there could be many different reasons whether it was from a fishing trawl or because of the increase in traffic of vessels. The turtles are at the surface. That's not to minimize the fact that there are recovered turtles from the oil spill area. There's no doubt about it, there are turtles being impacted by the burns and that's an unfortunate situation but as far as death being directly related to ingestion of oil materials, we haven't seen that yet.

Councilman Newton:

I was watching CNN last night and they had an expert or scientist that said rescuing the pelicans and cleaning them up causes stress and then they are brought here to the bay area and released and we will have another 100 dead pelicans on our beaches. They are saying they should maybe just let them die. Is that a good idea?

Mr. Sutter:

That would be the Fish & Wildlife and some of the state folks and I don't have any idea of how to address that question.

Captain Close:

All the clean up, all the transportation, there were a fair number of birds were brought here and released out at Fort DeSoto-that was all done with state and federal scientific support and advice from folks that really know what they are doing. I'm not the bird cleaning guy, but from the organizations that clean the birds, they've done that before and they know what the survival rate is. It's all done with folks that understand the science behind all of that.

Councilman Roff:

Senator Nelson actually addressed the shallow water versus deep water drilling on Saturday, which was a curiosity to me. Basically, Florida has

been the state that has been resisting expanded drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico's riches are in the Mississippi Delta and in the deep water. Even though there is very little oil in the shallow waters of the Gulf, the whole idea is to soften the opposition to expand the deep water drilling in the Gulf that's protected, as you saw earlier on the map. Part of that is also the federal military-where they do their maneuverings. It's not that the resources are there in shallow water, it's to open up more of the deep water.

Chair Mariano: The tankers, there is one tanker the Enterprise that you mentioned was out there. Why is there only one? Why haven't we put two, three or four out there at different key points?

Captain Close: The Enterprise is a drill ship. It's taking the oil that's coming up through the top hat device, processing it, and then pumping the oil after burning the gas off into a tanker that is then shuttling back and forth.

Chair Mariano: Why isn't another tanker sucking up the loose stuff that's floating around?

Captain Close: Skimmers are sucking that up. They suck up the water/oil mixture and it's going into either bladders or barges where it's getting disposed of. In a lot of cases when you pump the oil/water mixture into the barge after a couple of days it decants itself - the oil rises to the top and the water is on the bottom. They suck the water off, send it through a filtration system and put it back over the side. When the barge is full of mostly oil it's going into shore to a processing facility.

Chair Mariano: Do you think we have enough out there?

Captain Close: The folks on scene are making those calls. My understanding is they have enough out there for what's coming off the Enterprise and for what's being processed. Everything that's coming up through that pipe right now, and it's pretty much at maximum capacity, is being handled and processed. In terms of skimmers, the shortage is not in barges or tankers to put the water/oil mixture into, it's just in the nature of the skimming itself. Skimming works best with the freshest oil, it is weather dependent, you can't skim in very rough seas. There are a lot of vessels out there skimming offshore and a lot more skimming near shore, smaller boats in the marsh areas and along the beaches.

Chair Mariano: Do you think we're being constrained by what we are doing out there by finances or do you think all the resources that could be out there are out there?

Captain Close: No sir, I do not believe there is a finance constraint on this.

Chair Mariano: The Jones Act, that has not been repealed as yet?

Captain Close: I'm not aware, but nor am I aware that the Jones Act has been an impediment to any of the response.

Chair Mariano: Even with the latest stories of the foreign tankers that wanted to come in?

Captain Close: Do not believe everything you hear in the news. I'm hearing a lot of reports every day, I'm getting updates and if the Jones Act was an issue I'm sure that would have been brought up and resolved.

Chair Mariano: With all the oil that's being taken up, where is that oil going and are we

allowing for other facilities such as asphalt plants as far as what are we doing with the material? Are we letting them take that and burn it?

Captain Close:

The oil that's coming up in a controlled way going into the tankers is being sent to shore to refineries. It is being handled just like any other crude oil coming in. It's getting used. The thicker mounds, the oil that's less useful, is all being disposed of properly but I don't have a good breakdown as to where exactly they are sending it. I know they have a mechanism in place to dispose of it. They're not holding on to it trying to figure out what to do with it, and they certainly aren't taking it someplace else and dumping it.

Chair Mariano:

Now, when we saw the loop current could take the oil that swings up and around the state - to try to take that back to the Louisiana factories for them to burn it, it seems like we are spending a lot of time and a lot of energy. Are we going to allow, where we could say the asphalt plants around the coast take that?

Captain Close:

The tar balls themselves that we would anticipate seeing in this part of Florida, they aren't usable in a form like that. The oil that they are skimming on scene that still has some use is being handled that way by different facilities all across the Gulf. The tar balls are just being disposed of properly, there isn't use for them.

Chair Mariano:

This question was submitted by Patricia Kiesyzis, representing the Sierra Club. Please address the impact to our coast by the traditional shift of the prevailing winds from the east (now) to the prevailing winds from the west. (Shift usually occurs in mid and end of July).

Mr. Sutter:

I would have to refer that to the weather folks. Having lived in that area and having spent a lot of time at sea it's either southeast or southwest. I can't speak about that shift in pattern. Obviously when we do have these shifts in the direction of the main spill sight you can see the oil swing back and forth on either side of the mouth of the Mississippi and when we had east winds it was more towards Grand Island. With all these southwest winds we've been having up there lately we are starting to see it swing more towards Mobile and the Florida Panhandle.

As far as the predicting part, I know that the weather services has historical records that go back many years and all those are being used in the models predicting where the oil is and consequently that is being used in where the response folks will be focusing their efforts.

Chair Mariano:

If a hurricane comes in on the same path as Katrina with swirling winds directing everything towards the coast, if that happens what do we plan to do? What is going to be the plan of action for the Coast Guard in this clean up?

Captain Close:

Sir, the counterclockwise rotation of a hurricane as it moves into the Gulf, it seems unlikely just based on the very basics of that counterclockwise rotation that it would pull it this way as opposed to pushing it further in. An awful lot of it depends on the strength, the size, the exact direction of it and it depends on where and when it will hit in terms of the clean up process. There's a plan that BP is putting into place where they will be able to essentially quickly disconnect from some of the riser pipes that they are using to control the oil so that the vessels

on the surface would be able to get out of the way of the storm and then come back very quickly and reconnect again. There are plans in place for that.

Chair Mariano:

This past Friday my emergency management people and myself were on a conference call and in answer to a question it was said that if counties or municipalities want to spend money ahead of time for what's approved, it will be at their own risk. When I looked at the boom provisions that were put in place for Pasco County there are six booms that are going to protect Pasco County's 20 miles of coastline. Our own staff had made recommendations for 20 booms. The concern I have is, we don't even have the booms in place for the 6 never mind the 20. And if that's going to be the case all around the state, it's really kind of scary. How are we addressing those resources to be ready if it does come? If you have a three day window, I have serious doubts that you are going to be able to protect anyone along the coast.

Captain Close:

We don't have a three day window. We have a 94 mile buffer that we identified. When the three day forecast shows that we are going to be impacted at the edge of the 94 miles, that's the point at which we would actually start gearing up. You are correct, we don't have the boom right now on the west coast of Florida. Boom is a critical resource. Boom is being sent to Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle where the threat is very high and the impact is now. That's where the boom is being sent. Should the threat change then we go back through the Unified Area Command in Robert, Louisiana and put in our request for boom. In terms of 6 boom areas versus 20 areas, we held a workshop with Pasco County and every other county on the west coast. We showed them the areas that are listed as environmentally sensitive, they added some additional areas to that and we developed specific booming strategies for those areas. In a few cases some of the county folks wanted some very, very large areas boomed off. You can't boom the entire county off. The Area Contingency Plan is focused on booming off the most environmentally sensitive areas. Those are the areas with the highest amount of biologic activity and the most difficult to clean up. Beaches didn't make that cut. Beaches are very easy to clean up after the fact. Marshes and mangroves were the areas that the boom concentration was on. BP gave the state of Florida quite a few millions of dollars to set aside and the state has decided to entertain requests from the county(s) to boom additional low priority areas when the highest priorities are already boomed off, so there is a mechanism there for the county emergency managers to go back to Tallahassee to try to get additional boom for some of the lesser priority areas.

Chair Mariano:

We're talking about a state government that's really struggling right now, as well as every municipality with the budget cuts. That was the reason I was late for the meeting today. I would like to see the Coast Guard work with BP, look at all the things that are out there as far as other things that could work, even if it is out of the realm of what they want because I don't want to see destruction like Louisiana. We don't want to be cleaning up afterward, we want to protect before, whether its using other materials, special fibers, etc. If it takes money to build these products then someone's going to have to be compensated along the way. BP has made billions and billions of dollars, why shouldn't they

put up the money to protect our coast before this oil hits the ground.

Captain Close:

Sir, they are. Trust me. I'm not speaking for them. From the Unified Command perspective, we've watched BP go out and sliding boom from around the world. We've watched them go out to the booming manufacturers that normally produce so much a year and are now producing monthly or every couple of weeks because the demand is so high. They've gone out and contracted with the boom manufacturers. Boom is a critical resource and its being tracked by the Coast Guard, its being tracked by all the states very, very closely and the decisions about where the boom is going is not being made by BP. It's being made by the Unified Command involving federal and state agencies and partners.

Chair Mariano:

Thank you all for coming.

Two resolutions were suggested by our Agency on Bay Management. Before calling for a vote on Resolution #2010-04 and Resolution #2010-05, attention was called to the last paragraph in each resolution which shows who will receive copies of the resolutions. It was suggested that the resolutions be sent to President Obama, Governor Crist, the Florida U.S. Senate Delegation, the Bay Area U. S. House Delegation, the Florida Speaker of the House, the Florida President of the Senate, the Bay Area Legislative Delegation, and the local governments in the Tampa Bay region.

Chair Mariano called for a motion to approve the changes to the recipients of the resolutions (Kersteen/Beckner). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution #2010-04, Future Oil and Gas Exploration and Production in the Gulf of Mexico, with the revised list of recipients. (Beckner/Kersteen). Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to approve Resolution #2010-05, Operation and Management of Oil and Gas-Related Activities in the Gulf of Mexico, with the revised list of recipients. (Kersteen/Beckner). Motion carried unanimously.

7. Council Member Comments

Mr. Núñez stated Hillsborough County recently advanced the idea of a proposal to place before the citizenship a ballot initiative to approve an additional tax for transportation and I would like to see our Council support that tax initiative by Hillsborough County.

Vice Chair Collins: Staff is to draft a resolution in support of the Hillsborough County tax initiative for transportation to bring back at the August Council meeting.

8. Program Reports

A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) – Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen

The ABM should receive a commendation for participation and discussion of the two resolutions. The Agency deserves a lot of credit with their expertise.

Chair Mariano: The Council will prepare a letter to the Agency thanking them for their expertise.

At the May 13th ABM meeting we had several presentations.

Habitat Master Plan. This plan is an update from the Initial Plan that was completed in 1996. Using a quantitative approach based on Economically Feasible Benchmark Periods, the data shows a trend that we have stopped the losses and have seen gains in the various habitats, seagrass, mangroves, etc. as compared to the 1950s and 1996. The plan sets numerous restoration and conservation target goals. For more information go to www.tbep.org.

We had a presentation on the Derelict Crab Trap Removal Program. There has been a concerted effort since 2004 to remove abandoned traps that have been there for many years. A crab trap removal database has been maintained which shows that we have removed 748 traps since 2004. July 17th is the next scheduled removal effort in several sites in Tampa Bay. If you are interested in participating in the scheduled event and for volunteer training, contact Tampa Bay Watch at 727/867-8166.

The Port of Tampa and the Audubon Society provided a report regarding the Bird Protection Migratory Program. The plan sets guidelines and policy regarding dredge and disposal activities during nesting season that occurs between April 1st and August 31st. The plan calls for day monitoring during the nesting season. There is an established committee that meets prior to and after the nesting season.

The last item was the Offshore Oil drilling situation. We had a great dialogue and discussion that culminated in a lot of the language that was included in Resolution #2010-05.

The next ABM meeting is scheduled for July 8th at 9:00 a.m.

B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - No Report

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – No Report

D. Emergency Management - Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner

Copies of the 2010 Hurricane Guide were distributed in Council folders. This year we published 356,000 guides for seven counties and in two languages. We worked with our media partners to bring attention the new evacuation zones, which are part of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study, which should be released June 30th. To tie in to the earlier presentation, we will be having a web-based table top exercise for nine counties on July 27th and our counties identified three functional areas they want to test as part of our catastrophic planning. Those areas are: public information, volunteers and donations, and disaster housing. We encourage your local emergency management and other partners to participate.

E. Legislative Committee – Mayor Scott Black, Chair - No Report

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) – No Report

G. Economic Development

TBRPC staff will present an update on the status of the Tampa Bay Targeted Industry Cluster and Workforce Skills Gap Study at the August 9, 2010 Council meeting.

H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) - No Report

9. Other Council Reports

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report - No Report

11. Chair's Report

Chair Mariano thanked Council members for their participation in passing the resolutions.

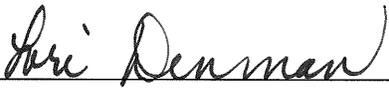
12. Executive Director's Report

Adjournment: 12:00 p.m.

Next meeting, August 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.



Jack Mariano, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary