



# Council Minutes

February 14, 2011  
10:00 a.m.

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## REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Vice Mayor Bill Dodson, City of Plant City  
Vice Chair, Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County  
Past Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin  
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County  
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo  
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto  
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County  
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach  
Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater  
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Vice Mayor Michele King, City of Gulfport  
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey  
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar  
Council Member Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg  
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Vice Mayor Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton  
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation  
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District

## REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island  
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor  
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City  
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole  
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena  
Council Member David Pogorilich, City of Temple Terrace  
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs  
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park  
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida  
Ms. Pamala Vazquez, Alt., Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD  
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD  
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County  
Bill Thomas, Citizen  
Cyndi Tanapani, VP, Planning, Fla. Design Consultants  
Will Augustine, Planner, Hillsborough County Planning Commission  
Mall Ely, CD Direct, Seminole  
Toni Palmer, Planner, Tampa Bay UASI  
Michael Dody, Project Manager, Maxey Development Group  
Kris Gionet, Citizen

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director  
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner  
Ms. Lori Denman, Recording Secretary  
Mr. Marshall Flynn, Principal Planner  
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager  
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  
Ms. Amanda Shaw, Senior Planner  
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner  
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

**Call to Order** – Chair Dodson

The February 14, 2011 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Earl Young, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call** -- Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

**Voting Conflict Report** -- Recording Secretary - None

**Announcements:** - Chair Dodson

- Vice Mayor Michele King, City of Gulfport, was thanked for her service on the Council. She has decided not to seek re-election.
- Congratulations were extended to staff member Greg Miller for the birth of his daughter, Astoria Rose.
- The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Future of the Region Awards luncheon will be held on Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> at the Wyndham Westshore, formerly known as the Quorum Hotel. Over 44 projects were entered and there is a first One Bay Award and a Going Green! Award. Council members were asked to RSVP to Council staff.
- Congratulations were provided to Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin, for his re-

election.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Vice Chair Bustle  
Mayor Minning was not present due to previous travel plans.  
The minutes from the December 13, 2010 annual meeting were approved. (Miller/Núñez)
2. **Budget Committee** – Vice Chair Bustle
  - A. The Financial Report for the period ending 11/30/10 was approved. (Kersteen/Brown)
  - B. The Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/10 was approved. (Jonson/Miller)
3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Dodson  
Agenda Item #3.F.7., Tampa Bay Park of Commerce Annual Report Summary, City of Oldsmar/Pinellas County, Phase 1-A and 1-B build-out dates were extended by two years (to February 28, 2013) in accordance with SB 1752. The Report has been revised accordingly.

**A. Budget and Contractual - None**

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

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction
  - A. December 2010
  - B. January 2011
2. IC&R Database
  - A. December 2010
  - B. January 2011

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

3. IC&R #001-11, Sarasota/Manatee MPO 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan

Action Recommended: Approve staff report

Staff contact: Greg Miller, ext. 18

**C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None**

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

**D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)**

*Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following Report(s) have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 20H-1.003(3), F.A.C.:*

1. DRI # 106 – Corporex, Hillsborough County
2. DRI # 218 – Gateway North, Manatee County

The following Reports are presented for Council action:

3. DRI # 166 – Wesley Chapel Lakes, Pasco County
4. DRI # 203 – Beacon Woods East, Pasco County
5. DRI # 243 – Mitchell Ranch Plaza, Pasco County

6. DRI # 157 – Trinity Communities, Pinellas/Pasco Counties (Pinellas  
Action Recommended: Approve staff reports  
Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

**E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports – None**

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

1. DRI # 80 - Big Four Mine S/D, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
2. DRI #105 - Sunforest, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
3. DRI #106 - Corporex, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
4. DRI #108 - Hidden River Corporate Park, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Tampa
5. DRI #141 - Westshore Areawide, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Tampa
6. DRI #151 - Crosstown Center, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
7. DRI #158 - Tampa Bay Park of Commerce, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Oldsmar/ Pinellas County
8. DRI #194 - DG Farms, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
9. DRI #235 - Southeast Tract (Mosaic), RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee County
10. DRI #243 - Mitchell Ranch Plaza, RY 2009-10 ARS, Pasco County
11. DRI #250 - Independence Park, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Tampa
12. DRI #251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Altman Tract, RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee County
13. DRI #251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Phase 2, RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee County
14. DRI #254 - Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee/ Sarasota Counties & City of Sarasota
15. DRI #263 - Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation S/D, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

**G. DRI Status Report**

Action Recommended: None. Information Only. (report attached)

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 # 10-1CIE, City of Pinellas Park (adopted)
2. DCA # 10-1ER, City of Palmetto (adopted)
3. DCA # 10-1CIE, City of Madeira Beach (adopted)
4. DCA #11-1, City of Temple Terrace (proposed)
5. DCA # 10-1, City of Zephyrhills (adopted)
6. DCA # 10-1CIE, City of Oldsmar (adopted)
7. DCA # 10-1CIE, City of Largo (adopted)
8. DCA # 10-1CIE, City of Clearwater (adopted)
9. DCA # 10-2AR, Pinellas County (adopted)
10. DCA # 11-1AR, Pinellas County (proposed)
11. DCA # 11-1, City of Anna Maria (proposed)
12. DCA # 10-D3, Pasco County (adopted)
13. DCA # 11-1, City of Bradenton (proposed)
14. DCA # 11-1, City of Plant City (proposed)
15. DCA # 11-1CIE, Hillsborough County (adopted)
16. DCA # 11-1, City of Dade City (proposed)
17. DCA # 11-1AR, City of Seminole (proposed)

Action Recommended: For Information

Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

The consent agenda was approved. (Brickfield/Mariano)

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

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

6. **A. Florida Strawberry Festival** - Ms. Barbara Caccamisi and two ladies from St. Clement's Catholic Church set up a table for Council members to make their own strawberry shortcake. The Church has been involved with the Florida Strawberry Festival for 38 years. All the St. Clement's proceeds go to worthwhile projects and charities. The Florida Strawberry Festival is also charitable. They give scholarships for young people to go to school who would not otherwise have that opportunity.

The Florida Strawberry Festival will run from March 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> and has been an annual event since 1930. Advance St. Clement's shortcake tickets are available before the festival starts at Sweet Bay Supermarkets. The ticket prevents you from having to stand in line, however, if you don't have a ticket you will not have to wait any longer than 7-8 minutes. Strawberry Shortcake was served following the meeting.

**B. Ollie Gagnon**, Protective Security Advisor for the U. S. Department of Homeland Security briefed the Council on the Regional Resiliency Assessment Program (RRAP)

and discussed the possibility of conducting a Transportation Sector RRAP in the Tampa Bay Area.

Transportation is a foundation infrastructure because we are reliant on things such as commercial sector, tourism and that would be the core focus of the Assessment Program. It goes over several months and at the end of the day the multi-media product is rolled out, and depending on economics and grant programs, we will be able to leverage resources to help build the capabilities of first responders to address the transportation sector. That is the overall focus of the program. We look at everything from a risk perspective and what are the consequences of things happening to transportation, what are the vulnerabilities associated with that and how to mitigate. And, of course, the underlying factor of all those risks is a threat - whether you are looking at natural disasters, a hazmat release, or a flood event. We are looking at a multi-hazard approach, multi-discipline and then coming up with the assessment program in that community. The good news is that over the past six years we've done a lot of different work on many of the infrastructures. What we will be doing is practicing a lot of things that have been done and then look for different opportunities to build that Regional Resiliency Assessment Project and attach that all together to give back to the community so they can use this in the transportation sector.

I have worked closely with the Regional Domestic Security Task Force and have briefed them. They are being briefed at the state level as well. I am happy to brief this Council in particular because of all the jurisdictions that are represented. There are less than ten RRAPs around the country every year so it's a very focused project and I am very happy that Tampa is in consideration for a transportation RRAP that would impact many different sectors.

Questions & Comments:

Councilman Newton:

So you would come back with options to ward off any potential threat along with possible funding for first responders?

Mr. Gagnon:

I know the grant person very well and what we do impacts that. Once that's resolved and the Homeland Security budget is released then we will know any type of grant impact. This is not something that is new to the community, we have many of the pieces. For example, we did a lot of work during the Super Bowl in 2009. We use Argon National Lab, which is our main partner and do a system analysis. For example, we are looking at a bridge, well that bridge may be important from a traffic perspective and an evacuation perspective, the bus system may be important for an evacuation perspective, but there may be natural gas that runs under that bridge that would affect other areas. So the consequence of all those transportation nodes is being looked at and the cascading affect if something would happen to those from a multi-hazard perspective. Using all of the work we have done up to this point and repackaging and looking at other opportunities to get a fuller picture of the transportation and resiliency associated with the transportation that would benefit the community.

Councilman Newton:

I asked about the funding because obviously if you did an assessment and it's needed, how would it be put into place without funds? If you have some of the pieces already in place can you utilize those?

Mr. Gagnon: The second paragraph in the Fact Sheet talks about the voluntary program. When we come back with the assessment, you have options for consideration. In other words, you have to take those options and look at your own risk management and do a risk analysis to see what you are able to accomplish and then leverage any funding sources that may be available. I will say that the RRAPs that were done in 2009/2010 were grant funded options. We are in a continued resolution right now. Grant funding is one area, if you have other grant sources such as Homeland Security, Urban Area Security Initiative that's already been in existence for 4-5 years, with this report you will be able to use that grant funding to help with your efforts for implementation.

Ms. Todd: What I would like to know is how does the Regional Planning Council interface with you? Secondly, is there really a coherent assessment because ultimately if terrorists decided to target this region we need to have a comprehensive assessment. How is that done if everything is "you can participate or not."

Mr. Gagnon: Let me clarify further. When the nominations are made one of the things I have to do as security advisor is state in several sections what is the potential cooperation of public and private sector and the public entities. In Florida, with your Regional Domestic Security Task Force structure and how you do things on a regional basis is very well received nationally. That's one of the reasons why I'm here today, to ask for your assistance on all the work that's been done with Project Phoenix. We can leverage that information and then make sure that it is rolled into the overall effort which is a local, state, federal - because at the end of the day the federal government doesn't protect anything, it's state and local. We help the coordination effort.

Council Member Jonson: You mentioned that your focus is going to be on transportation. Is that the focus that will be applied nationwide to each of the areas, or what other categories of focus do you have?

Mr. Gagnon: Some examples of previous years are: The Las Vegas strip from a commercial perspective, potentially the New York bridges, the turnpike system in New Jersey, there may be some chemical places where there are a lot of chemical sites in a cluster, there are actually 18 sectors. Everything from food/agriculture to nuclear and they look at different sectors for different focus areas. Again, if you try to do everything it becomes too broad and you won't get a good product back. You look to focus on a core sector and obviously we will look into other parts of how transportation impacts everything from rail movement to bringing phosphates to the port to petroleum being piped from the port to Orlando International Airport. There is a core look but there has to be a core focus of the resiliency.

Council Member Jonson: Will there be a follow-up process to look at the other focus areas?

Mr. Gagnon: We have several other programs that we do on a daily basis. There are usually less than ten that are done nationally so

probably the potential of coming back and doing another in Tampa, it would be a while. The assessments are large processes but again, we work with local, state and federal on a daily basis with our committees in the Task Force and we are looking at these other sectors on a daily basis and looking for opportunities to look at the overall risk to the community.

- Council Member Jonson: I'm just wondering about the chlorine in the port which has already been reviewed to some extent. Now you are coming back to look at the transportation. We have enough problems in this region with transportation without any hazards coming in.
- Mr. Gagnon: Hazardous materials is a leverage and one of the things we want to look at is the potential impact of hazardous sites on the transportation infrastructure. I think 47% of hazardous materials for the state come through the Port of Tampa. There are other programs where we work with the Coast Guard.
- Mr. Núñez: I have been hearing that communications is one of the areas you are focusing on in your program and that it is the underlying critical element of everything. Without communication you are dead in the water. Is the communication infrastructure a part of your focus?
- Mr. Gagnon: Yes. Certain cell towers that may be around bridges and the big piece is interoperable communications.

Chair Dodson called on Brady Smith, Senior Planner, to talk about "Resilient Tampa Bay 2011: A Knowledge Exchange with Dutch Experts." Mr. Smith said that Mr. Gagnon will be serving on a panel about storm surge vulnerability at this event that is being held next week. The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is coordinating this event with USF, the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, the Chair's Coordinating Committee, and others for a full day event talking about our vulnerabilities, especially to water - freshwater flooding, storm surge and sea level rise - and bringing in a different perspective from experts from the Netherlands who deal with these same kinds of vulnerabilities. We will look at some of the ways they have dealt with these vulnerabilities and mitigation, and help coordinate the efforts and get information on some of the efforts that are going on in the Tampa Bay region as well. The event will take place next Tuesday, February 22. The full day event starts at 8:00 a.m. at the USF Tampa Campus, Patel Center. An email invitation will be forwarded following this meeting with the details.

## 7. Council Member Comments

- Councilman Newton thanked members for their support during the time of bereavement for the fallen officers in the City of St. Petersburg and for attending the service.
- Councilman Roff mentioned that he is Vice Mayor FY 2011. As a member of the Florida League of Cities State Delegation, I was in Washington DC last week.

Thirty-five of us visited 25 of our 27 elected officials on Capitol Hill. The three main criteria that we were up there for were:

- 1) We were asking to get our fair share of transportation dollars (same request we make every year);
- 2) More importantly, we asked that there be a second look at the EPA numeric water nutrients criteria - a more scientific look. Some of us question how they came up with their data and would like a second look.

3) We asked that there not be cuts to community development block grant monies. The White House has proposed a 7 ½% cut, Congress has proposed a 25% cut. We've not been led to believe that we are going to get anywhere on that issue. One of our members of the House was quite blunt and mentioned that this fund was going to get slaughtered. That concludes my report.

- Council Member Miller mentioned that the Suncoast League of Cities and some of the Manasota League are taking a bus trip to Tallahassee on the 23rd-24th and we will be lobbying for the rail.

## 8. Program Reports

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

The full Agency met on January 13<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda were two significant items:

- First was the Egmont Key National Wildlife Refuge Natural and Cultural Resources Management and Erosion Concerns.

Staff of the US Army Corps of Engineers and the US Fish and Wildlife Service described the ongoing concern with erosion of the island's western side and the impact this has on nesting sea turtles and shore birds and the cultural resources. US Army Corps intervention is problematic because of US Fish & Wildlife Service ownership. The occasional re-nourishment provided when the ship channel is maintained is not sufficient to maintain resource quality. The Agency voted to send a letter to the Tampa Bay Congressional Delegation identifying the problems and seeking support for a resolution to the problems, and to call the delegates to follow up on this.

- Second was the Proposal to Maintenance Dredge Sections of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in Manatee and Pinellas counties.

The dredged material will probably be placed offshore of Egmont Key because it is not totally beach-quality sand. Discussion led to requesting that the Agency's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee investigate the possibility of developing standards for a disposal permit that would encourage disposal of appropriate dredged material on or near Egmont Key to reduce the erosion rate without harming on- or near-shore resources.

The Agency's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee met on February 10<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tom Ash of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County. Three items were on the agenda:

- First was Disposal of Secondary Use Concrete Within the Tampa Bay Area - a topic driven by the upcoming demolition of the Friendship Trail bridge, the Skyway Fishing piers and the St. Petersburg pier. Staff from the FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties' artificial reef programs provided info on how disposal of such materials within the bay or state waters is permitted, managed and monitored.
- Next was the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas program, a regional program being formed in our area through a public-private partnership. The goal is to have

landowners working together to eliminate invasive plant and animal species in a more efficient manner.

- The third topic was a new product - Phoslock - that has been developed by Australian scientists to remove excess phosphorus from lakes and ponds - with the goal of a more environmentally-friendly way to reduce nutrients and harmful algal growth. BCI Engineers is hoping to undertake a pilot project in Florida to test its effectiveness in our environment.

The full Agency will meet March 10<sup>th</sup>, and all are welcome.

#### Questions & Comments:

Councilman Newton: Did they talk about the materials/chemicals that BP dumped into the Gulf and the effect or what is going to happen from all of that?

Ms. Cooper: We have not talked about that at the Agency. We can look to get someone in to tell us what they are finding there now. I know they are continuing to study the affects of that dispersant, long term. Certainly there are a lot of questions about how much was used, where, and was it done properly? And what are the after affects?

Councilman Newton: I've been reading that it is supposed to be back to normal in a year.

Ms. Cooper: There is a lot of research going on to find out what is happening.

Commissioner Brickfield: It was my understanding that Egmont Key is owned by the US Fish & Wildlife, but right now the State of Florida does the park system management plan. The new budget proposes to hand that responsibility back to the US Fish & Wildlife, is that right?

Ms. Cooper: The majority of the island is owned by Fish & Wildlife Service and a small part by the Coast Guard. The State of Florida Parks Department has a management agreement with the Feds to manage that as a state park and off and on, every few years, the state comes up with a plan as a requirement to reduce their budget. The first thing they look at is visitor-ship to the park. Egmont does not have low visitor-ship, but what happens is that it is only accessible by ferry to the walking public. That ferry does not pay a toll to the state park system. If there was a pier for the ferry then it would have to pay a toll but what it does is park offshore so the visitors aren't registered. That's why the visitor-ship shows low and when the state looks at parks by visitor-ship it ranks low. The Fish & Wildlife Service has a management plan for most of the island. The shore has now been closed because of nesting birds, the island is a refuge so it's primary concern is to wildlife and so in doing that they have closed a lot of it to the public. The other part that the state is actively working on managing is for cultural resources and for people to visit. I have not seen the latest list of parks to be closed or downscaled but I wouldn't be surprised if Egmont is on it for that reason. There's always been a strong regional outcry to keep Egmont opened because it's an incredible resource. The funny thing is that Pinellas County has such a strong interest in Egmont but it's actually located in Hillsborough County. There

are all these disconnects that come along that make it a little more difficult.

Commissioner Brickfield: Well if we want to see that the beach is re-nourished, because as it was described to me, there is a wall now due to erosion and we have problems in getting that permitted, is it easier if we go straight to the US Fish & Wildlife? Or, is it easier when we have this hybrid of overlaying governments?

Ms. Cooper: The problem is that because a federal agency owns that island and it's not the Corps of Engineers, that federal agency has to pay to have its beach re-nourished. Fish & Wildlife don't have the funds to re-nourish that beach. My question to the Corps when we were talking about this at ABM was, well what happens if we transfer ownership of the beach portion to the Corps? Then they would own it and they could re-nourish it and use it for disposal. But the liability is there because of the historical resources and there are complications when you talk about changing ownerships between federal agencies and I don't think that's going to happen.

Commissioner Brickfield: Is there any way the Fish & Wildlife Service has money for beach re-nourishment?

Ms. Cooper: I have not heard that they have ever paid for that. Federal agencies are all mandated to do certain things and don't have many luxuries to do other things. It would be worth asking and they are certainly inclined to protect sea turtle nesting beaches and shorebird nesting.

Councilman Newton: If they protect sea turtle nesting beaches and the beach is washing away, why wouldn't they put the beach back?

Ms. Cooper: It's certainly not the only place the turtles nest and I think they would look at the overall critical nature of that stretch of beach in the loggerhead nesting territory and it's probably a very small percentage of where they nest. Just like when they are doing a development project they look at impact to critical resources and often they will say that in the broad scheme of things this is a small percentage.

Councilman Newton: If they close the beach, won't that affect the ferries?

Ms. Cooper: It's a different beach. The ferries land on the bay side.

Commissioner Brickfield: It's the south side of the island that is eroding and the north side is not bad.

Councilman Newton: What if they close the park?

Ms. Cooper: It's hard to say what would happen. The state would certainly stop maintaining the paths, and facilities that are out there.

Councilman Newton: But people would still be allowed to be ferried out there?

Ms. Cooper: Yes.

Chair Dodson: I would ask Commissioner Brickfield if this is a matter that you would like to pursue with the Regional Planning Council taking a

statement issue?

Commissioner Brickfield: I would love it if we could pursue it further. I don't know what avenue we would pursue it through. I sat through the Agency on Bay Management and they were just talking about depositing sand off-shore for an hour and a half. That was the easy one, everyone was in favor of that.

Chair Dodson: Commissioner Brickfield, if you would get with Mr. Kersteen, Chair of the Agency on Bay Management, and confer over this matter to see if there is a basis in bringing this back to the Council membership and the Board of the Executive Committee for further consideration.

**B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - No Report**

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

**D. Emergency Management - No Report**

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

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

**G. Economic Development - No Report**

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

**9. Other Council Reports - None**

**10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson**

The Executive/Budget Committee met prior to the Council Meeting to go over the FY 2010 Annual Audit Draft, which will be presented to Council at the March meeting for your consideration.

**11. Chair's Report**

The following report was provided to the Executive/Budget Committee.

During the last couple of weeks the Governor has released his new budget. There are three different matters of interest. You may recall that in my Incoming Chair's Remarks there was a concern for what may occur in changes with the Department of Community Affairs in view of the fact that the legislative statutes that enacted that body was sunseting at the end of last year. Another item that I would like to talk about are the appointments made to the Council by the Governor.

### RPC Funding:

The Governor's 2011-2012 budget did not recommend funding for the Regional Planning Councils. At the end of last year Secretary Pelham had identified in his recommendations going forward that a 44% reduction from the \$2.5 million funding level of all RPCs for the current fiscal year 2010-2011. Our portion of that money would have been \$270,000. Obviously some consequences would come from that if it were to transpire, many which would have to do with the state mandates that all RPCs are called upon to provide, and in our case, this would include Local Plan Amendments, Clearinghouse Reviews, and Technical Assistance as convener of the region. We are all trying to get to know our new Governor and we don't have much history to go on as he hasn't had previous legislative experience. It will be the two bodies of government (House and Senate) that will decide the outcome of funding for state government operations. Over the past 20-25 years this has occurred several times where we have been zeroed-out, the last time was as recent as four years ago. We are in communication with our Tallahassee team to identify key legislators to contact and key points to discuss. We have provided these key points in your folders. What I would like to ask each Council Member to do is to contact and/or visit at least one legislator that you have close communications with. The legislators are home this week and we would greatly appreciate it if you would contact them at their local home office.

In order for us to keep track of who has been contacted and who still needs to be contacted, please send Manny an email and let him know who you have touched base with.

The Council is fortunate to have a strong and experienced legislator, former Senator Victor Crist, who is now serving as a Commissioner of Hillsborough County and is a part of our Executive Committee. This morning Commissioner Crist had some comments to offer about this matter.

Commissioner Crist stated it's a business of relationships and those relationships will change and need to change every two years as leadership changes in Tallahassee. We have a professional lobbyist, Ron Book, that works for our organization collectively. He is the best in Tallahassee when it comes to appropriations legislation, but in a year like this and following years that we can expect, it's going to be a bigger job than any one person will be able to handle. You could get it all the way through the legislature and end up with a veto from the Governor and the odds of that happening are significant. It takes building a relationship with organizations like Florida Tax Watch who will be looking at what does get funded in the legislative budget, and making recommendations to the Governor. They listen to Tax Watch closely. I'm not sure if we (the Council) are members and that would be something worthwhile to look at, to join Florida Tax Watch. What we do know about the new Governor is that he wants efficiency and he comes from the private sector and he is looking at operating government like the private sector. I don't think he has learned that unlike the private sector, the government's business actually goes up and demands on our services go up during a sliding economy, as our revenues go down. In private business as your revenues go down so does your need to provide services. As he begins to learn, some of these policies may be modified with time. It's going to take each of us in our areas getting to know those who are in the legislative process and developing that relationship where you can make a personal phone call on their personal time and say help. And get it. In our area we have some very, very effective people. Dennis Jones and Jack Latvala in Pinellas. You have the incoming Speaker of the House in Pasco County, Will Weatherford. Also in Pasco, Mike Fasano. You have Mike Bennett in Manatee County. These people all have significant legislative experience and collectively they can make it happen. Any five Senators can change the direction of the Florida Senate. Obtaining the support of at least five

senators would be a great start at securing RPC funding.

Chair Dodson said Commissioner Brickfield also had some comments on how he sees the RPC's role with the Governor's vision.

Commissioner Brickfield reiterated that every two years we seem to get into the same situation where they question the funding of the regional planning councils and now we have a new Governor who has a new approach to government. He clearly wants to make changes in the way we operate. My thought was, should we be examining as RPCs how we fit into the Governor's new vision, and where can we be helpful and align ourselves so we're not fighting to just preserve ourselves, we are fighting for a bigger mission. Maybe that's the way to alleviate some of these ongoing problems and keep us relevant and in the process. When you read the Governor's transition team plans I don't think I've ever seen a transition propose combining three agencies in two different areas. These people are clearly thinking big and thinking differently about how government works in the State of Florida and maybe it's incumbent on us to look at some of these things.

Commissioner Crist said that a lot of times at the state level when you want to shut something down, but you want to do it with the least amount of controversy, you don't just hit it face on and say you are over. You say we are going to help make it more efficient. We are going to combine efforts. And then we roll two or three entities under one roof and then we budget half. Then we leave it up to the agency head to distribute that half that we budgeted, and they base it on the priorities of the whole. All of a sudden, let's say Juvenile Justice is sitting now in Health and Human Services. In the State of Florida with 2/3 of voters being senior citizens you will find that the Department of Juvenile Justice will get very little funds out of what has been appropriated to the overall agency. That was the reason why we pulled it out of the Department of Children & Family and created its own entity so we could direct line fund it. When they start rolling these things in and start consolidating, that's in essence what they are saying - that they are going to be making some hard decisions on who is not going to exist anymore. And they are going to be doing it in a way that's not real visible and it's not going to happen during the session with everybody in their face. The agency will do it when it's over.

Commissioner Brickfield said it puts the responsibility on us to show our value and our worth to the overall mission of the State of Florida. Commissioner Crist agreed and said they need to value us and we need to be back as a line item because a line item means, this is who we are. We have an identity and this is what in their wisdom has put forth as our resources.

Vice Mayor Roff said that according to our budget sheet, \$300,000 comes from the state and \$500,000 comes from the Feds and Grant monies. I would be just as concerned with those Federal Dollars right now, as much if not more so, because the flavor in Washington right now is to cut anything that's not nailed down to the floor. Basically the only thing they aren't willing to cut are entitlements. Be ready to defend yourself in Washington.

Councilman Newton had a brief comment. The Governor is a businessman and when you are trying to open a business a lot of regulation gets in the way. We are a body that is mandated by the state that deals with local plans. If you are trying to get around legislation that's already in place that

requires these mandates be enforced, all you need to do is get around the people that oversee that. Like Commissioner Crist said, minimize their effectiveness. But, you are talking about greenways, waterways and a lot of what we do impacts large developments which are considered job creators.

Gubernatorial Appointment Comments:

As you are aware, Governor Scott recently rescinded Gubernatorial Appointments throughout the state. This did affect the Council and our dedicated appointees so I wanted to take a moment to convey some information to the Council that we have gathered from the Governor's office.

Our Gubernatorial Appointments may continue to serve, as well as vote, until the Governor re-appoints them.

According to Senate rule 12.7(2) concerning appointments withdrawn by the Governor states that an appointee withdrawn by the governor continues to serve until 45 days after the end of the next legislative session or until a successor is nominated and confirmed by the Senate, whichever occurs first.

There have also been occasions through the years when our gubernatorial appointees are appointed by the Governor but the Senate did not address the appointments during the session. If that is the case, the Governor's appointees may continue to serve until the next legislative session.

I would like to thank our gubernatorial appointees for their dedication and service to the Council and for their diligence in reapplying to the Governor's appointment office. We will continue to follow this issue closely.

**12. Executive Director's Report - None**

Adjournment: 11:29 a.m.



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William D. Dodson, Chair



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Lori Denman, Recording Secretary