



# Council Minutes

May 9, 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  
Secretary/Treasurer, Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island  
Past Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs  
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor  
Councilman Sam Henderson, City of Gulfport  
Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater  
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey  
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole  
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  
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

Vice Mayor Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin  
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City  
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County  
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo  
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County  
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach  
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto  
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar  
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena  
Council Member David Pogorilich, City of Temple Terrace  
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park  
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida  
Ms. Pamela Vazquez, Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD  
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County  
Cori Cuttler, Community Affairs Manager, SWFWMD  
Renea Vincent, Planning Director, City of Tarpon Springs  
Will Augustine, Planner, Hills. Co. Planning Commission  
David L. Smith, Attorney, Gray Robinson  
Sue Murphy, Planner, P&M Consulting  
Stephen Gran, Manager, Hillsborough County  
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD  
Lindsey Miner, Planner, FDOT  
Betsy Benac, Planner, Benderson Development  
John Osborne, Planning Administrator, Manatee County

#### STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director  
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner  
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  
Ms. Amanda Shaw, Senior Planner  
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner  
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

#### **Call to Order** – Chair Dodson

The May 9, 2011 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Vice Chair Larry Bustle, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

#### **Roll Call** -- Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

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

#### **Announcements:** - Chair Dodson

- Due to the date of the annual NARC Conference our June Council meeting will be held a week earlier on Monday, June 6th. Reminders will be sent out.
- Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs, was introduced and welcomed to the Council.
- Correction to the Agenda: The agenda reflected the approval of the February 14, 2011 minutes. The correct date of the minutes is April 11, 2011.
- The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness will take place on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the USF Marshall

Center. TBRPC is partnering with the Harvard School of Public Health, the CDC Foundation and the Robert Wood Foundation to put on this free one day summit. The summit is to better prepare business, government and nonprofit leaders to work effectively together during a health or safety crises. For further information please contact Betti Johnson or Wren Krahl.

**1. Approval of Minutes – Secretary/Treasurer Minning**

The minutes from the April 11, 2011 regular meeting were approved. (Kersteen/Núñez)

**2. Budget Committee – Secretary/Treasurer Minning**

- a. The Financial Report for the period ending 03/31/11 was approved. (Jonson/Núñez)
- b. The Budget Committee previously met and was presented with the 2010/2011 Mid-Year Budget Amendment. The overall budget increased almost \$202,000 primarily due to the following:

Federal Revenue increased \$179,000. Several new projects in the Disaster Preparedness area including Pinellas Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan and the Florida Disaster Housing Project increased by \$114,000. Additionally, Tampa Bay Cluster Study, a continuing project, increased by \$60,000 based on increased expenditures, primarily in contract services.

State Revenue increased \$14,000 based on timing of expenditures between fiscal years for the DCA/RPC contract and the Hazardous Management Program.

The Budget Committee unanimously approved the proposed Mid-Year Amendment included in your agenda packets.

The 2011/2012 Mid Year Budget Amendment was approved. (Kersteen/Langford)

**3. Consent Agenda – Chair Dodson**

**A. Budget and Contractual**

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

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - April 2011
2. IC&R Database - April 2011

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

DRI # 129 - Seven Oaks, Pasco County

Action Recommended: Approve Staff Report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

**E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports**

DRI # 103 - Cooper Creek, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve Staff Report.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

1. DRI # 65 - Tampa Palms, RY 2008-10 ARS, City of Tampa
2. DRI # 68 - Cargill Riverview Facility, RY 2009-10 ARS, Hillsborough County
3. DRI# 78 - Tampa Downtown Development, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Tampa

4. DRI # 102 - Creekwood, RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee County
  5. DRI # 118 - Tampa Cruise Ship Terminal, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of Tampa
  6. DRI # 121 - Carillon, RY 2009-10 ARS, City of St. Petersburg
  7. DRI # 197 - Gregg Business Center, RY 2010-11 ARS, City of Plant City
  8. DRI # 211 - Meadow Pointe, RY 2009-10 ARS, Pasco County
  9. DRI # 221 - Pinellas County Criminal Courts Complex, RY 2009-10 ARS, Pinellas County
  10. DRI # 239 - River Club Park of Commerce, RY 2009-10 ARS, Manatee County
  11. DRI # 253 - The Grove at Wesley Chapel, RYs 2009-11 **BRS**, Pasco County
  12. DRI # 258 - Epperson Ranch, Rys 2009-11 **BRS**, Pasco County
- Action Recommended: Approve Staff Reports  
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 # 11-1, Pasco County (proposed)
2. DCA # 11-1AR, City of Tarpon Springs (adopted)
3. DCA # 11-1, City of Plant City (adopted)
4. DCA # 11-1, City of Dade City (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 # 11-1CIE/AR, City of Dunedin (adopted)
2. DCA # 11-2ER, City of Seminole (proposed)

Action Recommended: Approve staff report(s)  
Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

The consent agenda was approved. (Matthews/Kersteeen)

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. **Mr. Stephen Gran**, the Agriculture Industry Development Manager with the Economic Development Department for Hillsborough County, provided an overview of their department's efforts to create a business atmosphere that is conducive to the continuation and expansion of agricultural businesses within Hillsborough County. One of the recommendations in the One Bay Regional Vision Plan is to encourage preservation of open space and agricultural land.

Many people think that agriculture in the state is dead or a dying industry, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Florida has 47,500 farms, utilizing 9.2 million acres. In 2008, cash receipts were \$7.98 billion. In addition, Florida ranks 16<sup>th</sup> nationally in the value of farm products. We are one of the largest agriculture states in the nation. We rank #1 and #2 in various commodities, including citrus, tropical fish, sugar cane, strawberries, fresh fruits and vegetables, and greenhouse/nursery products. In 2008, the Florida agriculture and natural

resources industries had an economic impact of \$162.7 billion. That figure came from a study from the University of Florida's College of Agriculture. In addition, that study showed that agriculture provides 1.6 million jobs in Florida. What that economic number means, in 2008 the Gross State Product (GSP) of Florida was about \$722 billion. Of that, \$61 billion was attributed to agriculture and natural resource industries. That represents 8.2% of the total GSP.

The value of products sold has increased since 1974. From 1974 to 2007 there has been a four-fold increase in the value of products sold from Florida. During that same period we have had a significant amount of development so there has been a loss of farm lands - about a 30% decrease from 1974 which amounts to about 4 million acres of farmland.

Mr. Gran displayed a map of Hillsborough County agriculture land uses. About 38% of Hillsborough County land is utilized for agricultural production with about 2,800 farms, the second most of any county in the state. We rank 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of the value of production. Our farms in 2009 produced \$777 million, about 88% of all the strawberries in Florida-over 10% of all the strawberries in the U.S. We also produce about 14% of all tomatoes in Florida and 85% of tropical fish. We are one of the largest agriculture counties in the nation, in the top 2% of all agriculture counties in the U.S.

Top five agricultural commodities: strawberries, ornamental plants, vegetables, citrus, aquaculture. They generate about 86% of our total agricultural sales. That gives an indication that agriculture in Hillsborough County leans toward high-value crops. Those crops together only utilize 16% of the acreage. Those five commodities are rather intense when it comes to the value of production per acre. Hillsborough County ranks in terms of different products besides strawberries there are lesser known products that are grown that were ranked very highly in the state: cantaloupes rank #1 in the state and #8 in the nation; cucumbers rank #3 in the state and 17<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

In 2005 an economic impact study was completed and it showed the value of production and services was \$1.4 billion a year, and provided 20,000 jobs. All of the agriculture related industries together the economic impact is about \$4 billion and provides 42,000 jobs. This study also looked at the revenues generated by agriculture related to the cost per services. This study showed that for every dollar that agriculture generated in terms of revenue to the county, it only required back 25 cents in services. Other land uses also generate a surplus, that being commercial, industrial and vacant land uses while residential actually generates less in revenue than it requires back in services. These figures aren't meant to pit one land use against another, what it is meant to show is that a mix of land uses together can help a county government generate the appropriate amount of revenues to meet the need for the community.

The University of Florida also provided some regional product numbers for individual counties. According to the information, agriculture/natural resources provides 13% of the gross regional product for Hillsborough County.

A chart showing production acreage was displayed. There has been a decline, we have lost about 8.3% of our farmland from 1997 to today. Most of that loss in farmland has come from low-value crops as compared to the high-value commodities that were mentioned earlier. This has shown a transition from lower value crops to higher value crops. From 1997 to today our value of production has increased by 57%. Comparing that to the loss of farmland backs up that case that we are transitioning from lower value crops to higher value crops in Hillsborough County.

Strawberries has been our fastest growing crop in terms of value. Some of the others you may have heard are declining dramatically, such as vegetables, has stayed steady and by 2004 we have

seen an increase in the value of our vegetable production. A significant product that has declined recently is ornamental plants. In 2005 we were at our peak and that was close to the peak of the real estate bubble. Since that time we have lost about 30% of our value of ornamental plants.

Comparing our higher value crops with our lower value crops are categorized by looking at timber acreage and pasture acreage. There has been a decline county-wide in terms of the acreage devoted to those two land uses. When it comes to the high value crops (vegetables, strawberries, sod, poultry, fish farms, ornamental plants and miscellaneous), acreage devoted to those classifications has remained somewhat steady. Citrus was pulled out separately because there are a lot of other issues affecting citrus production whether it's various trade agreements, or the pest and diseases they have to deal with. Citrus is also on the decline.

In Hillsborough County's urban service area we do have agriculture production. What we did is try to show how the urbanizing community affecting acreages devotes to agriculture. The low value crops are the ones most impacted by being in close proximity to urban areas. The higher value crops, although on the decline, they haven't declined nearly as quickly as the acreage of the low value crops. Outside the urban service area things have remained steady and there has actually been an increase in terms of acreages devoted toward some commodities. What are the issues affecting Florida agriculture both in the urbanizing area and outside? Obviously, water availability, urbanization, competition for land, energy, input costs - all of this impacts profitability, labor, pests and diseases, regulations and foreign competition. When it comes to agriculture in an urbanized area, one of the main impediments is the relative cost of doing business due to an increased awareness of what agriculture is doing. Many of the regulations are designed to protect new land uses, new homeowners from agriculture rather than the other way around where we should be protecting the existing land uses from new land uses imposed adjacent to those. In Hillsborough County we have actually implemented some policies in our Comp Plan that recognize agriculture and support uses as the preferred uses in rural areas. By doing that we recognize the right of the farmer to continue their operations and try to address any of those urban/rural interactions prior to there being an issue.

One of the major programs that we have implemented in Hillsborough County is the Agriculture Industry Development Program. This came about back in 1995 as a recommendation that came out of our Agriculture Task Force. This program is a part of our Economic Development Department and it also operates under the guidance of the Economic Development Council, which is an advisory board appointed by our County Commissioners and it provides recommendations to the County Commission on agriculture related issues and various pro-active strategies that we can implement to enhance the economic sustainability of agriculture. The four major areas of focus are: Land Use Planning, Simplification of the Regulatory Process, Economic Sustainability of Local Production, and Coordination of New and Expanding Agribusiness Development. The last is a facilitation process where our program can help the agriculture land users through the various permitting processes with the county to try and encourage that new and expanding agribusiness in the county. In simplest terms, we serve as a liaison between the agriculture community and county government. We serve as an advisory committee to the county commission. Mr. Gran serves as a first point of contact on county staff for the agriculture community. We provide agricultural and economic data and we promote agriculture.

The value of agriculture production is increasing while acreage is declining. High value per acre crops are better able to compete with alternative land uses. Lower value per acre crops are the most susceptible to conversion to non-agricultural uses. One way to address that issue is to look at the benefits that agricultural land provides such as wildlife habitat, wetlands, stormwater

retention, aquifer recharge. It also provides connection for various environmentally sensitive areas as well as serving as a buffer between urban and rural land uses. One thing we need to look at is our ways of providing incentives to maintain that agricultural use that can capitalize on those environmental benefits that those uses provide. If a farmer is able to generate a cash flow then the long term economic viability of that use can be enhanced.

In terms of strategies to sustain agriculture, profitability is the key. By promoting a profitable agriculture, that's the most important factor in maintaining agriculture as a part of our county's industrial base and also Florida's. Some of the specific strategies that we try to address are the relocation and expansion needs of agribusiness entities, facilitate permitting of agricultural development, promote various marketing options, we try to serve as a clearinghouse to coordinate the efforts of the various agencies that provide services to the agriculture industry, we have supported and at one point implemented an incentive program that does pay farmers for providing those benefits to agricultural land use holders, and we try to address and identify duplication of regulation.

A few years ago we approached our county commissioners with the concept of paying farmers for providing eco-system benefits to our community. We came up with a concept where if a farmer entered into a 10-year conservation easement with the county, that we would provide them with an annual grant payment for securing their land in agricultural production and to compensate them for those environmental benefits. We based the payments on their taxes that they paid to the county. We paid them the equivalent of 75% of their taxes that they paid on their agricultural properties and agricultural buildings. That program was in existence for 3 years but because of budget cuts we had to disband the program.

Another issue that needs to be addressed is resource availability, mainly water. We need to ensure and protect the availability of adequate water resources to support and grow the agricultural economy. Another major area to address is land use planning. We need to recognize that agriculture production, agriculture support, and the related uses are the preferred uses in rural areas. There are parts of the county that are in the urban service area and that's not the place for long term agriculture. The rural service area on the other hand is the place in our county for long term agriculture, so we need to recognize that it is the preferred use in that part of the county. You need to allow for flexible use of land as production systems change or as crops possibly change. Our zoning and land use plans should allow for some flexibility for the future land use changes and not preserve farm land only for agricultural use. Farmers are very sensitive to the word "preserve" when they talk about ways of enhancing the long term viability of agriculture, they would rather use the term "protect." When they use it in that manner they are emphasizing the need to protect agriculture from new and encroaching land uses.

Another area we try to address is urban design criteria on agricultural activities. There is a broad range of what these design criteria may be. One example, I was in a site development review meeting with a production of a cooling facility for strawberries and the questions was asked, do you want to provide any lighting on your site? They said yes, a single security light. Then you need to come forward with a lighting engineer plan, a lighting study which could cost \$10,000-\$15,000. Just to put up a single light. The bottom line, our community needs to be aware of the impact that agriculture has on both our economy, environment and food security for our local economy and the nation economy.

Questions & Comments:

Ms. Kinsler:

What did you say is the reason for the decrease in the acreage?

Mr. Gran:

If a farmer isn't able to stay profitable with lower value crops and aren't able to generate enough cash flow from their existing use they are more likely to change to an alternative use. The first types of agriculture to convert would be those that generate less revenue per acre. The predominate loss of farmland in Hillsborough County has converted from pasture land to alternative uses - mainly residential development. By promoting higher value crops, they are able to withstand those offers for development and are more likely to stay in agricultural use.

Ms. Kinsler:

Is that where the issue is with incentives?

Mr. Gran:

When we first proposed the incentive program it was aimed mainly at the lower intensity type agricultural uses, although it was opened to everybody. The predominate amount of acreage was in pasture land.

Commissioner Mariano:

You talked about the use of services for different categories. The residential showed a \$1.29. Do you know how they computed that data, and can you get that information for me? I'm curious to know how that was done.

Mr. Gran:

I can email you that information. Our economic impact study is on our home page and it has an appendix that shows how that was calculated. We took all of the county budget documents, the budget documents from the school board, and looked at the expenses and attributed it to various land uses. We did either by population and other methods based on how that service is attributed to the community. At the end we added it up. We also looked on the revenue side and attributed the revenues the same way. The property tax revenue is pretty easy to attribute to the various land uses. We looked at sales tax revenue, grant revenue, and other forms of revenue we used various formulas. We actually had a consultant do this. The bottom line, the residential shows a negative in terms of costs for services versus the revenue generated. You have to realize that with the residential development comes commercial, industrial, and all those other uses. When you look at it as a whole, that mix of development being proposed meets the revenue needs of that particular use. There have been studies that get down to that level, such as a DRI, trying to determine if that particular mix of uses on that DRI generates enough revenue to cover the projected expenses of those uses.

Commissioner Mariano:

How do you try to get them to stay in agriculture? How do you encourage them to go to a high value crop?

Mr. Gran:

Of course we can't tell anyone what to grow. One thing that we have seen is, because our market value of the land is higher than the agricultural value typically. Farmers right now are able to borrow money based on that market value and they can work that back into their production system, whether they want to try to go to a more efficient method of production or whatever they want to do to try to maintain their economic sustainability. That market value of the underlying land is the key, and if that land is tied to a single land use that could impact that market value and lower the potential of the borrowing capacity against that value. We don't do anything specific to get people to change, but there are programs within Hillsborough County. Our extension service provides technical information to the growers. We

have the largest agricultural research station in the state of Florida out in rural Hillsborough County - the Gulfcoast Research and Education Center. It provides the most up to date and most efficient methods of production to our crops that we grow in our county. Of course it is a statewide program, but the fact that it is local definitely provides an enhancement for our local production. I'm talking about keeping their existing property rights the way they are. Many times agencies will talk about removing the development rights as a way to protect that agricultural use. There's no land use plan that can possibly protect agriculture. The only way to protect agriculture is for it to be economically viable. The idea of taking away property rights can actually negatively impact agriculture because it takes away the borrowing capacity to have annual production loans, because they rely on the value of their land for the loans, or for increase. Agriculture is a business, just like any other business. The value of their asset of their business is based on the profit generated from the sales. Strawberries generate a higher profit than pasture land. If you were solely going to buy a piece of property for pasture you would be willing to pay much less than you would for strawberries. The market value is always the underlying value of that land. When I use the word development, its only based on the current zoning, current comp plan allows on that piece of property.

Council Member Jonson:

I think I heard you say the biggest cost to agriculture is the cost of protecting residential properties from farm uses. I would be interested in knowing some examples of that.

Mr. Gran:

The biggest costs that I hear from the agriculture community is the cost of regulations. The idea that I tried to express is that many of those regulations are based on the desire to protect the residential uses from the agriculture rather than the house. An example of that would be a farmer doing what he has always done in terms of applying fertilizer, applying pesticides when needed and the new residential land users nearby call the regulating agency to try to impose some sort of limitation of what that farmer is allowed to do. There are rules and regulations, there are state statutes that somewhat protect the farmer, but that doesn't mean that the farmer doesn't need to address that concern of the neighbors that are new to the area. The farmer has been there for years doing what they have always done in the rural area, and that's farm their land. It is an indirect imposition of cost but there is a cost associated with that. What we did in Hillsborough County was in our comp plan we have a policy that says that agriculture is the preferred use and we have used that policy in other areas of regulatory change. An example of that would be farm worker housing. Where can farmers provide farm worker housing? Our current land development code allows it in the rural areas where there was a significant outcry from other rural residents where they didn't want farm worker housing, even near the farms. To be cost affective in providing both the workers and to provide for adequate housing it needs to be near the farm. We provided new land development code changes that emphasized that fact that specifically said that the farm worker housing was not only allowed

there, but that is actually the preferred location. If that farm worker housing was not allowed in the rural area that would have imposed a significant cost on farmers.

Vice Mayor Roff: Obviously water is one of your big concerns. What would the impact of the EPA Nutrient Criteria have on agriculture?

Mr. Gran: There have been several studies done that show it would be in the billions of dollars statewide. Florida agriculture is somewhat protected from those types of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) calculations. If they implement what is considered the best management practices set out by the Florida Department of Agriculture, they are assumed to be in compliance with those TMDLs. Some of the studies have gone through to figure out, what is the cost for *all* farms. Right now that program is a voluntary program. With that EPA Nutrient Criteria being imposed basically all farmers would *have* to do the best management practices and there is a significant cost associated with that imposition. Plus the fact that an individual farm may not have an impact on the nutrients in the nearby water body but because of that requirement now they are having to put in those BMPs and that costs quite a bit of money. In addition, the TMDLs are a moving target. If, over time, those TMDLs aren't being reached by either the regulatory infrastructure or by the best management practices then those best management practices would have to be enhanced and that, again, would incur greater costs to the agriculture community.

Vice Mayor Roff: How many farms do you think are participating in the voluntary method at this point, percentage wise-statewide?

Mr. Gran: Probably 25%.

Mr. Núñez: Do you have a matrix regarding distribution of sales, re-selling to nearby counties or international?

Mr. Gran: When you do an economic impact study you have to determine how much of the dollar value leaves your economy. We looked at Hillsborough County and tried to determine how much left the county. About 95-97% of everything produced in Hillsborough County leaves the county. The majority of that leaves the region and a significant amount of that, up to 75%, leaves the state. We are definitely an exporter to other parts of the nation in addition to shipping overseas. We have a considerable export market for citrus and fruits and vegetables.

Mr. Núñez: There were some issues in past years with people blaming the strawberry farming community of overwatering when trying to protect their crops from freezing and then generating sinkholes etc. What has happened since?

Mr. Gran: The Water Management District (WMD) has done a great job in addressing that issue. I was on their Frost/Freeze Protection Task Force to try to address that issue and there's been several initiatives that have been brought forward. One is to try and get farmers to convert to other water sources to protect their crops. Right now a lot of it is utilizing groundwater. They are emphasizing the need to put in recovery ponds so that they can use surface water in addition to implementing other methods besides water such as a type of greenhouse, wind machines, stones are being investigated to see their ability to protect the crops.

Mr. Kinnan: There are quite a bit of initiatives including incentives from the WMD and farmers trying to be good neighbors and utilizing other methods. About ten years ago the University of Florida Extension Service moved from Manatee County to Hillsborough County. I assume they were the group you were referring to about their interaction with you. They are an unbelievable asset, and they still come down to Manatee and do a lot. They had 200 acres in Bradenton.

Mr. Gran: That was a major initiative, actually my program. The University of Florida had proposed to close the station down in Manatee County. The agriculture community came to their defense and the University decided to keep the station open, although they wanted to move. They were able to sell their site in Manatee to the school board and that generated upwards to \$10-\$12 million and then that is when Hillsborough County became aware that they were looking for a new location. We had a potential site, Manatee County had a potential site, and the Hillsborough County site won out. We provided the University with 475 acres for no cost and about \$1/2 million to help with site development. That's an area where Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners proactively provided incentives for agriculture research conducted locally.

Mr. Kinnan: And we all benefit. Growing potatoes, do you consider that a high value crop? Do you see them as vegetables?

Mr. Gran: Anything that is grown for the fresh market would be considered a high value crop and they fall under vegetables.

Mr. Kinnan: Talking about housing for farm workers - one of the outstanding members of our community was a migrant worker growing up. We have less of those types of migrant workers because they stay year round now and it is a much more stable environment for them to be involved with the school system, and a part of the community. I like to think that in Manatee County we have found some solutions to help everybody.

Mr. Gran: What we saw when we went through this change to our farm housing rules, close to ten years ago, people saw what they perceived as being farm worker housing and many times it could have been a rundown mobile home park and not even associated with a farm but possibly farm workers lived in that mobile home park. What we were trying to emphasize is that if farmers were able to provide high quality housing, that would be where the farm workers would tend to want to work and live, and then those low quality facilities would possibly go out of existence. We would be able to raise that level of housing for farm workers and then, like you said, have a year round population of those workers who might be better to integrate into the community.

Council Member Henderson: You were talking about services in the future for ecological services. I wonder if that would incorporate things down the road as far as the TMDLs and Nutrient Criteria - would that incorporate incentives for reducing over application of pesticides, and contribution of nutrients to the waterways?

Mr. Gran: I can see it addressing all of those issues. The problem is attaching a dollar value. There is a lot of work being done right now in trying to establish specific values to all of the different criteria. I would certainly think that nutrient removal would be an area that agriculture could partner with urbanized areas to address.

Chair Dodson: Were you at the symposium that the Hillsborough County Planning Commission held last Friday for Tampa, Plant City, Temple Terrace, Hillsborough County and Planning Commission members? The effort behind that was an Appraisal and Review Evaluation Report in preparation for the Comprehensive Plan Amendment that's conducted every seven years. I was fortunate to be a part of that seven years ago and attended this past Friday. I think you would be happy to know that the matter of agribusiness and the importance of agribusiness county-wide was something of significant importance and it was discussed at length and placed at the top of the priorities.

Mr. Gran: I have been involved in most of their processes over the past several years. I'm sure I will be brought into the process at some point.

All Council presentations: [www.tbrpc.org/council\\_members/council\\_presentations\\_2011.shtml](http://www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations_2011.shtml)

7. **Council Member Comments** - None

8. **Program Reports**

A. **Agency on Bay Management (ABM)** – Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen  
The Agency's Habitat Restoration Committee met on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

Two erosion control projects affecting the islands of the Richard T. Paul Alafia Bank Bird Sanctuary at the mouth of the Alafia River were described by staff of the Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries. The committee members voted to send letters of support for the Sunken Island project currently in the permitting process.

Staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District's SWIM Team gave a progress report on the Clam Bayou water quality and habitat restoration project underway in Gulfport, on Boca Ciega Bay. The project is nearing completion, and is performing as expected - removing litter and settling sediment from upland runoff.

The full Agency will meet Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda are:

**U.S. EPA'S Tampa Bay Ecosystem Services Demonstration Project.** Mr. Rob Northrop, Urban and Community Forester for the University of Florida Extension, will give a recap of the presentations from the May 3<sup>rd</sup> update and describe the upland forest component of this project. The project is an effort to quantify, in economic terms, the services provided by the various components of the Tampa Bay ecosystem to the region and beyond.

Mr. Dave Howard, Director of Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges, will present **The Egmont Key Resources Protection Project Initiative** to gain federal support for protection of the historic structures and beach habitat of Egmont Key based upon US Army Corps of Engineers' Feasibility Report.

Suzanne Cooper will provide an update on **2011 Legislative Actions** taken on the bills that ABM addressed at its March meeting.

All are welcome to attend these meetings.

- B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - No Report**
- C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) – No Report**
- D. Emergency Management**

Chair Dodson called for a Motion to adopt Resolution #2011-01 declaring the month of June as Hurricane Awareness Month in the Tampa Bay region, and forward to the Governor's Office, the Department of Community Affairs and the local governments in the Tampa Bay region. (Núñez/Todd).

Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner, provided an update on emergency management projects including the State Disaster Housing Planning Initiative and Post-disaster Redevelopment Planning. A brief presentation of the preparedness efforts for the 2011 Hurricane Season was also provided.

June 1<sup>st</sup> will kick off the 2011 Hurricane Season. The Hurricane Guide was distributed in Council folders. Hurricane Guides were done for seven counties this year - from Citrus County to Sarasota County, in English and Spanish. These will be distributed through public buildings, libraries, US Post Offices, social service providers, and businesses. All information and maps provided in the guide has been provided to the media. They usually do their own pieces that come out at the beginning of the hurricane season. We also have an on-line version.

As we are preparing for the hurricane season it is also important for us to note that it's not only hurricanes that can affect us. This has been a very disastrous March, starting with what happened in Japan on March 11 and then what has happened in terms of the tornados. An estimated 305 tornados during the entire outbreak from April 25 to April 28. There were 340 fatalities during the 24 hour period from April 27 to April 28. Many of the State Division of Emergency Management were deployed to go to Alabama and some of the other southern states to help in terms of their response and provide relief so they can take care of their own homes and families. In addition, we have been looking at the mid-western floods. A series of heavy rainfall events from April 22 to April 27 caused widespread river flooding. It has been a very challenging spring and they are projecting that it will be a very challenging hurricane season. We all need to get prepared.

The project that is being finished up right now is the State Disaster Housing Planning Initiative. This initiative looked at, from the state perspective, interim housing which could be either direct housing such as the FEMA trailers, or other types of assistance. FEMA would rather give you a check for assistance such as home repairs, rental expense, and other grants and loans. There is also transient housing (hotels, mass care shelters) which are needed when no other housing is available.

We pulled together a State Task Force consisting of stakeholders from the government, private sector and non-profits. This included housing and community development, permitting and code enforcement, environmental services and from the private sector, the builders association who can tell us what is available in the community, what's the status, can we move people into local vacant rentals as opposed to trying to bring in the FEMA trailers and other types of assistance. We would also need contacts with the hotel/motel association, the Convention Visitors Bureau and our volunteer groups such as the faith-

based groups who bring in assistance at the very beginning.

We had four deliverables:

- New State Disaster Housing Plan and Field Manual so that when the state folks came to the community they had a designated plan on how to set things up. We are now in the process of vetting that through our task force as well as the 67 county disaster coordinators.
- Network of County Disaster Housing Coordinators and identification of County Disaster Housing Task Forces. We are encouraging each county disaster housing coordinator to get their task forces together so they can plan locally. FEMA will ask you what you want and you better be ready to tell them what you need and what you want in your own community.
- New Local Disaster Housing Plan Template so that they are able to identify what information you need locally, that you need to keep updated, and then plug it in to a planning template so that you know you have guidance for building your own disaster housing strategy at the local level.
- New Disaster Housing Training Curriculum. There is an abbreviated course which is a 1 ½ hour web-based training but you can do it in 30 minutes. It is easy but it provides a good overview. It is interactive and it provides an overview on disaster housing and what the major issues are, what you need to be ready to do on a local level. We also developed the student manual and the instructor manual and visuals curriculum for a day long course for folks that are on a task force or are disaster housing coordinators.

We have had three training sessions and another will be held at the Governor's Hurricane Conference at the end of May. Once we take that session we will take all lessons learned from that curriculum and make it better and provide the final products to the State Division of Emergency Management.

The introduction to Disaster Housing is on-line right now: [www.floridadisaster.org/housing](http://www.floridadisaster.org/housing)

Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning (PDRP) - we have been working with all of our counties, most specifically Pinellas County, over the last year. The PDRP is a guide for recovery and long-term reconstruction. It isn't like your comprehensive emergency plans which looks at preparedness and response. This is looking further down the road on how to get your community whole again, how do you position your county so that you are able to get federal and state reimbursements, how you can partner again with the state and federal and with the private sector to provide that economic development stimulus that you need after a major disaster. The PDRP looks at identifying vulnerabilities, then each group looks at major issues and strategies, then identify action items/tasks and responsibilities. Who is going to be responsible for what, and when it should be accomplished. We will have a PDRP Toolkit which will have those emergency ordinances, emergency policies, as well as procedures that will help implement and move the county along in terms of recovery. We are working with the University of Florida and the University of South Florida to help us look at those specific ordinances and specific issues such as blight abatement, abandoned properties, emergency permitting for debris, etc.

There are several work groups within the PDRP:

- Land Use and Housing

- Construction and Permitting
- Infrastructure Restoration
- Environmental Restoration
- Economic Restoration
- Financial Administration
- Public Outreach
- Health and Social Services

We recently received additional funding to look at Health and Social Services. There are a lot of issues associated with this group, particularly in the Tampa Bay region. It goes from the hospital, clinics, and medical office restoration(s), mental health assistance, assisted living and nursing homes. On the other side are the social services issues such as low income assistance, public transportation restoration, homeless programs, child and family services, daycare - not only for emergency responders but for everyone until schools are reopened. We are coordinating with our non-governmental organizations and our volunteers to see what they can bring to the table.

The National Hurricane Conference was held April 18-22 in Atlanta, Georgia. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate provided the opening speech for the conference. Ms. Johnson played a video of Mr. Fugate's speech. He said "we have to train these new elected leaders, both local and state, to get ready for this hurricane season and the best way is through exercises. Get your phones out and start using those lists and let everybody know that now is the time to get ready for hurricane season. One of the things you need to do is Tweet, Facebook update and point everybody to those sites whether they are state sponsored or a part of FLASH or other groups that are going to talk about getting ready for hurricane season 2011 and challenge them to get their plans done, get their kits and know what they are going to do. Telling people they need to get ready for fear doesn't work. I think we need to tell them how it empowers them and gives them control in a situation that often times takes away that ability. When we talk about community we are talking about the community we serve. We need to take preparedness and understand that all of us that can, have a responsibility to prepare to the best of our abilities so we don't make the most vulnerable members of our community get in line behind us. I think again, as we talk about the whole community it has to be recognized that it cannot be what I call a government centered approach. We have important roles in government to play. But we've got to leverage the faith-based volunteer and traditional volunteer organizations that are active in disaster, we have to embrace the private sector as a part of this team and engage them and figure out how we can get resources in that area. Not just look at what government is going to do. And we have to look at the public as a resource, not a liability. And tell people there is a responsibility to be prepared. There's a responsibility to be able to take care of yourself and your family. There is a responsibility to check on your neighbors."

Fear doesn't work. That's an excellent point. We do need to tell people that they do have a responsibility if they live here. And you don't want our most vulnerable folks behind you in line.

The Governor's Hurricane Conference is coming up in Fort Lauderdale May 15-20. Ms. Johnson will be doing some regional roundtables regarding the new evacuation studies that were released last year. There will be disaster housing training, post-disaster redevelopment planning and long term recovery, and we are in the works so that we can get professional development credits (EM, AICP, PRSA).

As folks have indicated, we are bringing Harvard to Tampa Bay and you are all invited. Invitations have been mailed for the Resilient Tampa Bay: Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness. This

summit is on empowering the business, government and non-profit organizations to work together in times of crisis. It is presented by the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative of the Harvard University School of Public Health, the CDC, CDC Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation received a grant to help us pull this together. We are hosting this summit May 25, 2011, 8:30am to 4:00pm at the USF Marshall Center. To register: [www.meta-leadershipsummit.org](http://www.meta-leadershipsummit.org)

For more information: [www.postdisasterplan.org](http://www.postdisasterplan.org)  
[www.floridadisaster/housing.org](http://www.floridadisaster/housing.org)  
[www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)  
[www.tampabayprepares.org](http://www.tampabayprepares.org)

**E. Legislative Committee** – Mayor Scott Black, Chair

Due to an emergency with the city, Mayor Black was not able to attend the meeting.

Mr. Don Conn, Legal Counsel, provided the End of Session Preliminary Report.

In addition to passing the state budget on Friday, the legislature also took up thousands of pages of legislation in the form of Substantive Bills, Amendments to Bills, and Bills to conform the statutes to the budget. Council staff, with the assistance of our team in Tallahassee, will be sorting through all of this and reporting in more detail in the days and weeks ahead. Here is what we know at this point:

1. The eleven Regional Planning Councils were funded at the \$2.5 million level for the State Fiscal Year 2012.
2. The statute that deals with the Governor's appointments to RPCs was revised to provide that one of his ex-officio appointments will be a representative nominated by the new Department of Economic Opportunity instead of from Enterprise Florida. In addition, most of the powers and duties of the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) have been transferred to the Department of Economic Opportunity, which will now serve as the State Land Planning Agency. An exception is the Division of Emergency Management which is transferred to the Governor's Office. (Senate Bill 2156).
3. Major revisions to Growth Management Laws did pass. (House Bill 7207). It will take some time to fully analyze the impact of these revisions and how they will be interpreted and implemented along with the separate bill (House Bill 7201) that was also passed reenacting the 2009 Growth Management Revisions that had been challenged. We previously discussed the 2009 revisions concerning transportation concurrency, mobility fees, the local government comprehensive planning process, DRIs, permit extensions and the role of RPCs in dispute resolution. Some of the additional revisions in this year's legislation will:
  - a. Place primary responsibility for managing growth on local governments and significantly lessen the role of state government; RPCs will continue to play an important role in review of local government comp plans and DRIs, but the State's Role will be Limited to issues of statewide significance;
  - b. Time frames for development reviews are shortened, deadlines in existing development orders are extended 2 to 4 years due to the continued adverse

- economic conditions, and the burden of proof for third-party challenges to development permits and orders is increased;
- c. Rule Chapter 9J-5 of the Department of Community Affairs dealing with state review of local comp plans, evaluation and appraisal reports (EAR), land development regulations and determinations of compliance is repealed; and
  - d. Transportation “backlog” is redefined to make it clear that new development is only responsible for impacts resulting from the new development, and not for making improvements to deal with existing “backlog” conditions.
4. Other Legislative Action of interest includes:
- a. Legislation prohibiting the state’s implementation of EPA’s Numeric Nutrient Quality Criteria did not pass (House Bill 239);
  - b. The repeal of the law requiring septic tanks to be inspected every 5 years did not pass (House Bill 13 - Senate Bill 1698);
  - c. A proposed constitutional amendment was placed on the next general election ballot that will limit new state revenue to a formula based on inflation and population changes starting with the state’s 2014-2015 fiscal year (Senate Joint Resolution 958);
  - d. Legislation prohibiting local governments from passing ordinances that ban sales of fertilizer passed but grandfathered existing ordinances (House Bill 7215);
  - e. Pill mill legislation passed which establishes stiff penalties and increased regulation for this activity (House Bill 7095);
  - f. Legislation passed which reverses the burden of proof in challenges to permits and projects by requiring the person claiming that a project will cause pollution to prove that harm to the air or water will result from the project or permit (House Bill 993); and
  - g. The Bert Harris Act was amended to extend exposure under the act to any regulation or order that imposes “temporary” impacts in effect for longer than one year (House Bill 701).

This summary is just the “tip of the iceberg.” We will have to see in the days and weeks ahead what lies under the surface of the water. Then we will be able to determine the true impact of this year’s session on our state, both locally and on a state-wide level. As soon as we receive the Week 9 Session Report from our legislative team in Tallahassee we will forward to Council members.

Chair Dodson: There are two items that directly affect our Council, one of which was the big question regarding funding. The outcome is good, we have retained our \$2.5 million funding, which on the Senate side all of that money was recurring. We shouldn’t have any questions going forward with funding from the Senate side, but on the House side, as of Friday, the Conference Committee that was considering this item had \$1.8 million of the \$2.5 million in recurring and \$700,000 in nonrecurring. There will still be discussion on the House side. The other matter had to do with the appointments. We have 12 members of our 40 membership board that are appointed by the Governor. One of the ex-officio members will now be different from before. The legislature did not hear about the matter of

reappointments so those members that are currently gubernatorial appointees will still be eligible to serve the RPC until the next legislative session.

Mr. Pumariega: That was our initial discussion with the Governor's staff. We have discussed this with my counterparts at the state level in Tallahassee. Now that the legislative session is over, we have been sharing some State of Florida attorney opinions from the past and this will now be in the forefront to make sure that gubernatorial appointees that sit on the Council can continue to serve until the members are replaced by the Governor and the Senate confirms them. I found an opinion from 1987 and also constitutional language regarding this issue. We may need to obtain a legal opinion from either Mr. Conn or from another RPC so we can move forward and settle this issue. Another item are the four members that are up for confirmation by the Senate, Ms. Kinsler, Mr. Young, Charles Waller and Laura Woodard, who is no longer a Council member. As of last week there was no action by the Senate.

Mr. Conn: That's a very good observation. We need to look at the facts and it depends on whether or not the Governor actually made an appointment or if we need to speak on a vacancy. We have to look at the particular circumstances of each vacancy.

Mr. Pumariega: Hopefully by the June meeting we can have a definite discussion on that issue.

Councilman Newton: Mr. Conn, you mentioned that the Nutrients did not pass. I thought they had guideline dates that were going to go into affect.

Mr. Conn: That has been challenged. There have been lawsuits brought by a number of states, including Florida. The dates that you refer to are still out there but the mitigation has put those dates on hold at this particular time. It will be up to the outcome of the litigation.

Mr. Pumariega asked Ms. Cooper to clarify - did the federal government extend the time frame to implement this rule for a year, which will take us to next September for the freshwater?

Ms. Cooper: The freshwater and downstream protected bayous are going into effect this October and in November the estuarine criteria is supposed to come out. They haven't set a date for implementation. Our Estuary Program, our region and the other Estuary Programs in Southwest Florida are working together with EPA to try to recognize what they have already done in terms of nutrient values, which have been accepted by EPA in a different column to have those accepted instead of the nutrient criteria that EPA is working on right now.

Councilman Newton: It was my understanding that they would not render what is called an unfunded mandate because what was established.

Ms. Cooper: What we did in this region was adopt our own TMDL for nitrogen, which is our big problem here. We aren't talking about the other TMDLs. We have put in place nitrogen management criteria. That came down from the state. For example, you have wastewater treatment that is discharging a certain amount and they have a permit that allows them to discharge more. The state said you can't discharge more. Each individual has been going to the government to try to get a permit. As a region we have this cap on

nitrogen load. In a sense it's an unfunded mandate, but its one that we imposed on ourselves rather than have the government come down. That's why we are fighting EPA.

Chair Dodson: Any member that wishes to have the Legislative Report prepared by Mr. Conn to pass along to your Council should contact Mr. Pumariega and he will send to you via email.

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

**G. Economic Development - No Report**

**H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)**

**9. Other Council Reports - None**

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

The Executive/Budget Committee met prior to the Council meeting and approved the FY 2010/2011 Mid Year Budget Amendment. The Committee also approved the 2011/2012 Initial Budget which will be forwarded to the full Council at the June meeting.

Mr. Nunez announced that Floridians for Transportation will be holding their Transportation Summit in St. Petersburg at the Vinoy, July 13-15.

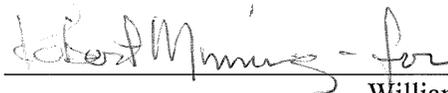
**11. Chair's Report - None**

**12. Executive Director's Report**

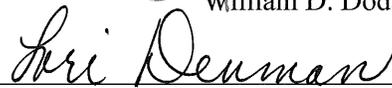
As you heard this morning in Ms. Johnson's report on the Statewide Housing Plan, she is preparing this plan for the state of Florida. Our staff has demonstrated their competency and reputation and because of that, they keep approaching us for assistance in statewide projects.

Chair Dodson mentioned that the staff as a whole was recognized for their diligence and hard work. They have persevered during the last four years without any additional compensation. All of our cities and counties are suffering the same circumstances, but it goes without saying that we recognize and appreciate the work product that comes out of this staff at the RPC.

Adjournment: 11:47 a.m.



William D. Dodson, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary