



Council Minutes

December 12, 2011
10:00 a.m.

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
Vice Mayor Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Vice Mayor Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach
Councilman Sam Henderson, City of Gulfport
Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas 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
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Ms. Pamela Vazquez, Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida

OTHERS PRESENT

Will Augustine, Hillsborough County Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Scott Rudachtter, Attorney, Kirk Pinkerston
Joe Incorvia, Planner, Pinellas Park

STAFF PRESENT

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Mr. Kevin Biegler, Planner
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. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Dodson

The December 12, 2011 annual meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Council Member Jonson, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary - None

Announcements: - Chair Dodson

- Councilor Bob Matthews provided the annual meeting continental breakfast.
- Mr. Harry Kinnan was recently elected to serve as Chairman of the Manatee County School Board.

Council Folders:

- 2011 Annual Report Edition of Visions magazine flyer. The magazine is available for downloading on the Council website: www.tbrpc.org. Mr. Avera Wynne will present the items covered in the report later on the agenda.
- The Future of the Region Awards Call for Entries. The deadline is January 13th for submitting a project.
- Council Meeting Recap for use in reporting on Council activities.
- Revised Schedule of Meetings Calendar. There are two changes on the calendar. The Agency on Bay Management will move to quarterly meetings and the Regional Planning Advisory Committee will meet every other month.
- Meeting Reminder: There will not be a meeting in January. The next Council meeting will be

held on February 13, 2012. This meeting will be a little special in that we will be having a 50th birthday party for the Council and we will celebrate with birthday cake and party balloons. The Council turns 50 on February 16th.

- Staff stocking project. Staff members decorated stockings throughout the month of November and donated dollars to purchase stocking stuffers. Donations were also received from the Tampa Bay Estuary staff and Florida Blood Services. The stockings will be delivered to The Haven, a shelter for women and their children.

Commissioner Bustle has a luncheon to attend in the City of Bradenton where he will be honored by the Just For Girls organization. The Installation of the 2012 Slate of Officers will need to take place by 11:00 a.m.

Special Recognitions:

It is a tradition at the Annual Meeting to recognize those members who have served as Committee Chairs or Officers. The Chair presented to the following a TBRPC paperweight as a token of appreciation:

- Commissioner Bustle, for serving as Vice Chair of the Council and as Chair of the Clearinghouse Review Committee. He also served as Vice Chair of the Executive/Budget Committee.
- Mayor Bob Minning, for serving as the Secretary/Treasurer for 2011, for serving in that capacity on the Executive/Budget Committee, and as Vice Chair of the Agency on Bay Management.
- Mr. Bob Kersteen, for serving as the Chair of the Agency on Bay Management.
- Mayor Scott Black, for serving as the Chair of the Legislative Committee.
- Councilor Bob Matthews (absent), for serving as the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Mr. Pumariega presented a TBRPC paperweight as token of appreciation to Chair Dodson for serving as the Chair of the Executive/Budget Committee and stated his guidance and leadership have been appreciated what with the challenges we have faced with the budget in 2011.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Secretary/Treasurer Minning
The minutes from the November 14, 2011 regular meeting were approved. (J. Miller/Black)

2. **Budget Committee** – Secretary/Treasurer Minning
 - A. The Financial Report for the period ending 10/31/11 was approved. (J. Miller/Black)
 - B. The amendment to check signature authorization for Northern Trust and TD Bank accounts was approved. (Black/J. Miller)
 - C. The authorization for Officers to sign documents was approved. (Mariano/Newton)
 - D. The updating of the corporate bank resolution to reflect/confirm officers was approved (Kersteen/J. Miller)

3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Dodson

- A. **Budget and Contractual**

- Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program

- Approval to accept Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program to fund a planner to perform duties specified by the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Region 4. The grant is from the Department of Homeland Security, through the Florida Division of Emergency Management in the amount of \$75,000. The Division has authorized two planner positions for each of the 7 Domestic Security Regions. In Region 4, one resides with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the second position at TBRPC. The award period is October 1, 2011 to April 30, 2014. There is no requirement for match.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with the Division of Emergency Management (DEM).

Staff contact: Amanda Shaw, ext. 21

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

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

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None

D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)

DRI # 240 – Heritage Harbour, Manatee County

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports

DRI # 123 – Bay Area Outlet Mall, City of Largo

Action Recommended: Approve staff report

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

1. DRI # 105 - Sunforest, RY 2010-11 ARS, Hillsborough County
2. DRI # 106 - Corporex Park, RY 2010-11 ARS, Hillsborough County
3. DRI # 141 - Westshore Areawide, RY 2010-11 ARS, City of Tampa
4. DRI # 148 - The Pavilion, RY 2010-11 ARS, Hillsborough County
5. DRI # 190 - University Commons, RY 2010-11 ARS, Manatee County
6. DRI # 202 - Unnamed Exclusive Golf & Country Club, RY 2010-11 ARS, Manatee 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 State Land Planning Agency and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

For adopted amendments that do not require Council comments, no report is attached.

1. 11-3ESR, City of Largo (proposed)
2. 11-2ESR, City of Clearwater (adopted) (no report)
3. 11-1, City of Bradenton (adopted) (no report)

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. 11-2ESR, City of Zephyrhills (proposed)
2. 11-1ESR, City of Pinellas Park (proposed)
3. 11-4ESR, City of Largo (proposed)
4. 11-1CIE, City of Madeira Beach (adopted)

Action Recommended: Approve staff report(s)

Staff contact: Jessica Lunsford, ext. 38

J. Other Items

Tampa Bay EPCRA Awareness Week Resolution

Each year the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials and the Governor proclaim Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in recognition of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA). Governor Scott is expected to proclaim January 22-28, 2012 as EPCRA Awareness Week. Local city councils and commissions are urged to pass a similar resolution proclaiming EPCRA Awareness Week in their communities.

Additional Materials: Resolution #2011-04

Action Recommended: Motion to have the Chair sign Resolution #2011-04, proclaiming January 22-28, 2012 as EPCRA Awareness Week.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

The consent agenda was approved. (Black/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

Taken out of order:

6. B. Mr. Avera Wynne, TBRPC Planning Director, provided a presentation summarizing the Council's activities for the year of 2011. The Annual Report is available on the Council's web site www.tbrpc.org.

Our Mission Statement is To serve our citizens and member governments by providing a forum to foster communication, coordination, and collaboration in identifying and addressing issues and needs regionally. The Tampa Bay RPC consists of members from the counties of Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, and Pinellas.

The Regional Planning Council is recognized as Florida's only multipurpose regional entity that is in a position to plan for and coordinate intergovernmental solutions to growth-related problems on greater-than-local issues, provide technical assistance to local governments, and meet other needs of the communities in each region . . . F.S. 186.502(4)1. The Council looks at various issues in a comprehensive fashion as opposed to looking at just transportation, or just the environment, just land use.

Council Members consist of 2/3 elected officials, 1/3 gubernatorial appointees, and 4 ex-officio members (Enterprise Florida, FDOT, FDEP and SWFWMD).

Convening the Region:

- We are continuing to implement One Bay. April 2012 will be the 5th year anniversary of Reality Check.
- The Meta-Leadership Summit for Preparedness was held in February. Betti

Johnson, Principal Planner was recognized.

Ms. Johnson said Council Members should have received an invitation via email for the Post-Summit Activity meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. in the conference room. We will be talking about where to go from here. There are a lot of opportunities to pull in the private/public and non-profit sectors throughout the region and that is what we will focus on. We also have an update on the Republican National Convention and the planning that is taking place, how it will affect all of us, and how we all need to take steps in terms of preparedness. We are also working with universities throughout the region, looking at leadership training, and they will also discuss grants available for reaching out to the community to build those collaborations. We invite all of you to attend.

- Get Ready Tampa Bay. At 11:45 a.m. today we will have the activation ceremony for the car charging station in the parking lot. An additional unit will be installed in the near future. There will be a couple of Chevy Volts at the ceremony as well as a Nissan Leaf.
- Resilient Tampa Bay was held in February at USF. The Dutch provided information on “Learning to Live with Water.”
- The 19th Annual Future of the Region Awards was held in March. The MacIntosh Award went to The Dali Museum and The Beck Group. The Goldner Award for Regional Leadership was presented to Commissioner Karen Seel, and the One Bay Award was presented to the Pasco County Market Area Plan and Transit Oriented Development Amendments process which used the One Bay principals.
- Decision Support GIS. Mapping was done for One Bay, as well as database enhancements on economic modeling aspects for emergency preparedness, and updating sea level data. Staff has also been working on the Broadband Mapping Project.
- The Sea Level Impact Analysis Viewer is a project Greg Miller worked on. Greg is no longer with TBRPC. We have a new staff member, Kevin Biegler, who started the first of December.
- Emergency Preparedness. Staff worked on the State Disaster Housing Initiative Plan and the Post Disaster Redevelopment Planning for Pinellas County. The Statewide Regional Evacuation Study was recognized by the National Association of Regional Councils in San Diego and was presented with an award. Emergency Preparedness is integrating the business community better into the state’s emergency response and planning activities. The Hurricane Guide will be a more digital publication in the future.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee brings together all of the emergency responders on a quarterly basis to talk about planning activities and training activities that are upcoming such as the Ammonia Siren Workshops and Shelter in Place. John Meyer is the LEPC Coordinator as well as the DRI Coordinator.

- The Regional Domestic Security Task Force host and facilitate training classes and meetings. Amanda Shaw is the RDSTF Planner. The last exercise was three nights, from 3pm to 3am, and simulated three different terrorism events. The Agricultural Terrorism Incident, Operation Bovine Reclamation, involved cows, cow stretchers and terrorism and was held in Polk County. They also held the ClearComm Interoperable Communications Exercise at the Cruise Terminal.
- Economic Development - the completion of the Industry Cluster Study and Workforce Skills Assessment which was an integral part into the Tampa Bay Partnership's Business Plan. The Disaster Resiliency Study looked at the impacts of storm events on businesses and looking at it from a spatial concept was completed. Patrick O'Neil is the staff person for Economic Development.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review. Council issued 63 local government comprehensive plan amendment reports. 43 amendments to Future Land Use Maps and 16 small scale amendments constituting 52 acres. Jessica Lundsford is staff.
- Developments of Regional Impact. Manatee County is the only county on the map for the second year in a row with Parrish Lakes, Robinson Gateway and Wingate Creek Mine Substantial Deviation. John Meyer is staff.
- Intergovernmental Coordination and Review. For 2011, a total of 73 IC&R proposals were processed, 29 were regionally significant and 7 full reports were generated. John Meyer is staff.
- The Agency on Bay Management has restoration projects that have been underway for a couple of years that are starting to come to fruition. One of them is a mining incident and the St. Pete/Clearwater Airport (PIE) runway extension in 2004 - the mitigation process will begin at the Big Island Gap, near the Howard Franklin Bridge.
- Bay Soundings is still very successful. In 2012 we will print 3 editions with an increase in digital delivery. This will be the 10th year of publication. We are hopeful that we can get back to 4 issues a year by saving money and raising money.
- The Tarpon Tag - there are about 8,700 plates registered. Around \$125,000 has been raised each year for the Bay and over \$1.4 million raised to date. The state raised tag fees and registration that can be done every two years. The Estuary Program's Policy and Management Board is talking about changing the fee from \$15.00 to \$25.00. Interestingly, the Tarpon Tag was the 26th specialty tag and now there are 118. When we got through the legislature we were told the Tarpon Tag would be the last specialty tag issued.
- Technical Assistance - Audience Response System
Currently, a popular technical assistance service is the interactive voting system. ARS services were provided to:
 - Pasco County BoCC

- Super Region Leadership Summit
- Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority
- Pasco US 19 Market Area Study
- South Hillsborough Community Plan

What's upcoming in 2012?

- Broadband Florida. Brady Smith is spearheading the Broadband planning activities of Broadband Planning and Broadband Mapping.
- Statewide Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Coordination - Six Pillars Integration. This is the plan that we put together for the Economic Development District. We are going to try and have the eleven CEDS look similar and in doing so, try to integrate into the Six Pillars of the Florida Chamber Foundation. The CEDS will have a common analysis portion and we will apply it to the eleven RPCs.

Mr. Pumariega stated that TBRPC will be working with the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) on the CEDS plan. There will be ten Regional Forums that will take place in February and March. We will fast-track the CEDS so that will be completed by March. Mr. Wynne said the legislature has mandated that DEO complete Florida's Five Year Strategic Business Plan by March.

- Continued One Bay Vision Implementation
- Statewide Energy Resiliency Study: The eleven RPCs will do energy planning for five energy planning areas. We will combine some RPCs and look at what can be done in terms of renewable(s), alternatives to reduce our reliance on foreign fuels. Get Ready Tampa Bay fits into that program.
 - Strategic Regional Policy Plan
 - Assist local governments to incorporate into Comprehensive Plans

20th Annual Future of the Region Awards will be held at the Vinoy in St. Petersburg and the 50th Anniversary of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning will occur in 2012 as well.

Marshall Flynn is the backbone of the GIS system and all of TBRPCs technology.

Questions & Comments:

Councilman Newton:

I'm on the Friends of Weedon Island board. The ARS system gives you real time results and you can see the results on a graph. Normally you have to wait months for the results.

Mr. Wynne:

We have 275 of the clickers so keep us in mind as you have events.

Mr. Pressman:

With the changes with DCA and a lot of governments looking at cutting back or trying to reduce steps of permitting, I was wondering if you have made any adjustments or steps to reduce the process of walking through DRIs and filings with the city and individuals who have to deal with agencies.

Mr. Wynne:

One of the things we have done is to streamline the amount of

resources you might put on one objective. A little bit of a triage affect, you look at them and determine how much impact it will have. If it won't have much of an impact then you don't need to spend as much time on it. If it is impacting then it will get more treatment. We are changing the angle by which we look at it. We have the DEO and we are looking at how this amendment furthers the CEDS plan, how does it relate to the Six Pillars, job creation, and those types of things. We are asking the question - does this amendment have the potential to negatively impact job creation? Or, does it have the potential to help job creation?

Mr. Pumariega:

Also One Bay implementation when reviewing local plan amendments.

Mr. Wynne:

The state funded the format and they have certain things they want us to look at. We haven't deviated from what we used to do but there are two different types of review now. There is the Expedited Review and there is the Full Review. About 1/3 of the amendments fall into the Full Review and how it impacts regional resources. The ones that have the expedited review we have trimmed down. You will start noticing that with the reports.

Mr. Pressman:

Personally I would like to see a comparison to what we used to do and what we are doing now. I think DRIs require a lot, particularly during re-submits. I would like to see where we could drastically reduce hoops that applicants can fall through. I think we need to be looking at the process and I would like to see an analysis of where we can reduce these things.

Mr. Pumariega:

Last month the Senate came up with a DRI report that basically says that we should keep the DRI process, with some modifications. We will probably see some modifications that might streamline that process.

Mr. Pressman:

I would like to see ourselves working on that. I think we could do a better job.

Commissioner Mariano:

We have a DRI that has come before us in Pasco County and they are looking at taking it back to the DRI status. Pasco County has used the ARS keypad for our annual survey and a market survey. The great thing about using the ARS is you can see where the impact is and where the balance is. It is great to see instantaneous results.

Council Member Jonson:

What is the next step in the One Bay process?

Mr. Wynne:

The five year anniversary of the Reality Check is coming up. Should we do an event? What type of event should it be? There has been quite a bit of implementation of One Bay in the region and we may highlight that at the event. The Pasco Market Area Study has implemented a lot of the recommendations. Manatee County has a process and they utilized the data from that. Some of the Hillsborough County planning activities have also utilized that input. We would bring those people together and talk about the successes and at the same time look at areas that aren't being addressed. For TBRPC, when we looked at One Bay we noticed

it split off into 4 different sections - the built environment, the natural environment, mobility, and economy/energy. We already have a lot of people doing land use planning with the built environment, natural resource planning, transportation planning for mobility, and economic development. There aren't a lot of people in energy and that is something that would benefit from a regional collaboration and the state level. From our perspective in One Bay we are looking at the energy aspect. We will come together in April/May to talk about what has been done well, what needs a little bit of fixing, and what different things we need to look at.

Councilman Newton: Back to the applications and the DRI streamlining, I don't know if you have a process like a work chart that would help the applicant. If you have requirements from Tallahassee and the applicant sees those when they apply, then they will know ahead of time.

Mr. Wynne: There is a copy of the DRI time line in your Council folder. One of the things you will notice from the basic process, the way its outlined in the statutes and rules, is how much of the clock is on the RPC and how much of the clock is on the applicant. The major difference between our clock and their clock is that we never take more time than what we are allowed in that flow chart, but the applicant often does.

Councilman Newton: That's what I'm saying. The applicant is the one talking about streamlining to get rid of some of the obstacles and hurdles. You can cut everything out but if they aren't doing what they are supposed to do, then that's not streamlining that's just doing away with regulations that are needed.

Mr. Meyer: HB 7207, which was recently approved, identified the new transportation mitigation measures. What the applicant has to do now is demonstrate what his impacts are and that cuts down on time a lot. Not only is this a time savings, but it's a significant money savings.

All Council presentations: www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations_2011.shtml

7. Council Member Comments

- Mayor Black reminded the Council of the Kumquat Festival in Dade City, which takes place the last Saturday in January.
- Councilman Newton thanked Chris Johnson from Keep Pinellas Beautiful who helped clean up the cemetery. On December 20th is the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl St. Petersburg 2011 KICKOFF. Marshall University Thundering Herd vs. Florida International University Panthers. February 17 to 19, 2012 the City will be host to the Big Ten/Big East Baseball Challenge at Al Lang Field. There will be professional scouts from all over the country looking at the top players.

8. Program Reports

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

1. The Agency's Habitat Restoration Committee met last Thursday, December 8th,

and there were several interesting items presented and discussed.

- ◆ Mr. Joe Quinn of the Southwest Florida Water Management District, described the process that the District is using to evaluate the 261,000 acres that the District owns for possible surplus. The complicated process involves in-house experts, other resource agencies, the public and stakeholder groups as well as established criteria and state standards. It is expected that the District's Governing Board will adopt an action plan at its August 2012 meeting for disposing of any lands deemed unnecessary for District functions.
- ◆ Ms. Cristina Esposito of Pasco County presented the County's Environmental Lands Acquisition and Management Program, and described current plans to restore native habitat on three parcels. Coastal hammock will be restored on a 15-acre parcel in western Pasco County; several hundred acres of pastureland will be restored to pine flatwoods habitat suitable for gopher tortoises and other native species; and a 120-acre area of borrow pits and disturbed habitat will undergo restoration of the historic 5-mile creek. The county is aggressively seeking to purchase or manage natural lands and to protect critical linkage areas as wildlife corridors. Funded by about 5% of the Penny for Pasco revenues, it is expected that 38 million dollars will be generated over 10 years.
- ◆ Mr. Peter Clark of Tampa Bay Watch invited the committee members to assist in planning the field trips for the 2012 National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, to be held in Tampa October 20-24. About 1,000 land managers, regulators, environmental consultants, and restorers from the U.S. and abroad will attend.

Committee members enthusiastically identified about 35 possible field trip locations that will show the wide variety of habitat restoration projects which have been accomplished, or are needed, in the Tampa Bay area. Follow-up will involve identifying leaders for each trip and the specifics to be covered at each location.

The full Agency will meet on Thursday, January 12th. All are welcome.

2. Ms. Suzanne Cooper referred to Mr. Wynne's Annual Report. The Tampa Bay Estuary license plate has been around since 1999 when the Council got the necessary signatures and legislative sponsors to get that approved. At the time the cost was set at \$15.00 a plate. Over the years we have had a decline in the number of plates purchased, as have all the environmental plates. They have all fallen about 14% from 2009 to 2010. The Estuary Program has been discussing ways to improve sales and improve revenues from those plates because they fund important functions. The Estuary Program uses most of their funds for Bay Mini-Grants which are community grants for bay projects. The RPC gets about 20% of the revenue which we primarily use for Bay Soundings. In looking at different ways to improve revenues, either through sales or through increased costs, they decided to pursue both. They would like to ask the legislature to raise the price from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per year and as it says on the *draft* letter, now 91 of the 118 plates cost \$25.00. Fifteen are still at \$15.00. They feel that is a worthwhile concept to try and go through the legislature. Another thing they are going to do is go out for more awareness. They can spend some of their budget money advertising through inserts and utility bills and other types of advertising. They think they can increase sales and get revenues up. The gist of the letter is to ask for support for raising the cost of the tag from \$15.00 to \$25.00.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the letter and distribute to appropriate legislators and stakeholders. (Kersteen/Crist)

Councilman Newton: Can you change the design of the tag?
Ms. Cooper: You can redesign the plate but it is expensive because you have to buy all of the unsold plates from the state.
Vice Mayor Roff: Under ABM, I was at the groundbreaking last month for Ware's Creek Project which is a major tributary for the Manatee River, which feeds into Tampa Bay. There is about 40,000 cubic yards of contaminate flowing out of that tributary and more importantly, this is a multi-agency 25 years in the making project. When the project is completed it will reduce runoff into the creek.

Taken out of order:

Agenda Item #14. Installation of Officers: Chair Dodson introduced Ms. Diane Corna, City Clerk of the City of Pinellas Park. Since moving into our new facility Ms. Corna is becoming a tradition at our annual meeting. Ms. Corna is gracious enough to administer the Oath of Office to our 2012 Slate of Officers.

Ms. Corna administered the Oath of Office to the incoming 2012 Slate of Officers: Commissioner Larry Bustle, Chair; Mayor Bob Minning, Vice Chair; Mr. Andy Nunez, Secretary/Treasurer.

Chair Dodson presented Ms. Corna a snow globe as a token of appreciation.

Chair Dodson passed the gavel to incoming Chair Bustle.

Agenda Item #15. Incoming Chair's Report: Incoming Chair Bustle stated he will provide his incoming Chair's remarks at the February 13, 2012 meeting.

Incoming Chair Bustle presented Immediate Past Chair, Vice Mayor Dodson with a token of appreciation. Vice Mayor Dodson is only the second elected official, in the Council's almost 50 years, to serve as Chair for a second time. Under his leadership we have all gathered new and valuable information to take back to our member governments. He has represented the Council in a professional and competent manner. Vice Mayor Dodson was presented with a replica golf bag and pen set with the inscription that reads: William D. Dodson, Chair, 2011, The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.

Taken out of order:

Agenda Item #6.A. Renewable and Clean Energy Financing

Mr. Doug Coward is the Interim Executive Director of a non-profit organization called The Solar and Energy Loan Fund. He also served as a St. Lucie County Commissioner for 12 years and served on the Treasure Coast RPC for a decade. Mr. Coward addressed the Council on innovative financing techniques underway in St. Lucie County for solar power opportunities.

Over the last year I have been asked in my private role to work on clean energy issues all over the state of Florida. I want to compliment the Tampa Bay RPC because what I have found was that you are clearly statewide leaders and I've had the privilege of working with Manny and Avera and compliments to your staff. Today I would like to provide a context of why we developed the programs and move into more detail of how our clean energy home program actually works.

One of the things that strikes me as we talk about clean energy is that we often times focus on the environmental side. When I think about energy, I think of a much bigger issue. I think of national security, foreign policy, the stability of our economy. I also think of the pocketbooks of every single American. Gas prices have doubled in the last 5 years and electricity costs are also continuing to rise. Simply doing nothing is not going to solve the problem. In my role as a County Commissioner we cut over \$200 million from our budget and a third of our workforce. Obviously in my home I am also facing the difficulty of this recession that we are pulling ourselves out from. What strikes me is that energy is a key opportunity. Not only for savings, but for economic development as well. In Florida there are alarming numbers that stand out. The first one that struck me was the fact that currently we spend tens of billions of dollars each year that we send out of state to purchase carbon based fuels to power our cities and parks. Avera touched on this earlier, the idea of being able to reinvest those dollars back into solutions in our state to grow industries and create jobs.

Another thing that jumped out at me was a study that was done by the Florida Public Service Commission. It identified the rising electricity costs in Florida. 4.7% per year for nearly a 50% increase over the last decade. That is a statewide average. Some utilities will be lower than that, and some will be higher. It's also troubling that Florida has no meaningful energy policies. Most noteworthy would be creating a renewable portfolio standard (RPS) like 27 other states have. We started by petitioning the legislature hoping that we could develop a RPS in Florida and got nowhere. I would describe current clean energy policies in Florida as being trickled-down clean energy policies because right now, if you don't have the money in your hand, the disposable income or equity in your home that would make these investments you simply don't have the ability to participate in clean energy solutions. Consequently, you also don't get to take advantage of the significant rebates and tax credits that are available. One of the things our program does is try to break that barrier down so that the average Floridian can actually participate and benefit in clean energy technologies.

The silver lining to this immense failure is that the lowest paying fruit in our state remains on the vine and is waiting for us to pick. That's precisely what our program tries to attempt to do. Touching on what those fruits are is clearly that the first step needs to be energy conservation. That's the most cost effective thing you can do to your home or business to save money. Energy efficiency is also a key issue. Most homes run a/c systems and solar thermal is the most cost effective solar technology in the state and we simply don't take advantage of these opportunities. Another study that stood out in my mind which helped put this discussion in an economic perspective was the Retrofit Florida Study done by the Florida Solar Energy Center. What the Study did is look at what the economic impacts of deep energy retrofits on about 3% of the homes in Florida. There are about 6 million homes in Florida. The estimates are based on doing these improvements on about 186,000 homes. Some of the highlights from that Study indicate that those homes would save \$285 million per year in energy savings, and that's not a one-time gain, that's an annual savings. It would generate nearly \$4 billion of economic development activity. It would help create more than 40,000 direct jobs and another 15,000 indirect jobs. That doesn't include the other 97% of the homes, it doesn't include institutional, industrial, commercial. Even if this Study is flawed by 10% or tens of millions of dollars you still get the idea of how much economic development opportunities exist and how much savings is waiting for us to "mine" from our existing buildings.

The other Study that jumped out at me is the Navigant Report done for the Florida Public Service Commission. Why this report was so intriguing is that it took a look at all the different renewable energy alternatives in the state and tried to determine which was most technologically viable. What were the types of technology that we should be promoting in the Sunshine State? Solar PV constitutes more than 50% of the potential renewable energy that we can create in the state. Unfortunately, we're not taking advantage of these opportunities. New Jersey is one example. They have about half of the sunshine as Florida and they have 100 times more roof top solar than we do. It's not a surprise that solar is the number one option in the Sunshine State, but it is certainly a surprise that Florida has not taken advantage of this particular opportunity.

After being frustrated at the state level, as a county commissioner we decided to take a look at what we could do to empower our own community. We took a look at programs being developed all over the country. I would emphasize that there is not one strategy, there might be several that would be appropriate. We found pros and cons to each of the programs. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs is the most prevalent program. There are some very progressive utilities such as Orlando who has actually developed loan programs. We ultimately decided to pursue the development of a community development financial institution. Under Commercial and Government Facilities I highlight the Qualified Energy Conservation (QEC) Bonds. This is another huge missed opportunity in Florida. The QEC Bonds are being used all over the country to try and stimulate a large scale benefit for retrofits. In Florida we have \$192 million of bonding capacity available and those have not been authorized by our Governor or the legislature, so they sit idle. 70% of those funds would go back to help local governments. These are not handouts. These are favorable

financing that help the economics work with public/private partnerships in conjunction with the other service companies. Performance Contracting is another model that you have seen where local governments work in partnerships with the private sector. CDFI (consumer energy loans and micro-loans) also work on the commercial scale.

When you are looking at developing your own local community financing programs, some of the fundamental considerations are:

1. Goals must be defined to determine best implementation strategies. Tailor multiple local/regional programs to achieve desired goals;
2. Economics must work for all participants, including: clients, banks, contractors, etc.
3. Financing, Collection, and Administration. How do you come up with a loan pool? How do you collect? Who will actually administer these programs?

We started out focusing on Property Assessed Clean Energy Programs. Berkeley, California was the first in the country. When I spoke with the director of the program he said some things to me that really stood out. Most importantly would be the interest rates. PACE Programs are typically doing bonds and they are able to provide interest rates in the neighborhood of 8-10%. When you start doing a model for improvements, and you have an interest rate that's approaching double digits, it quickly crashes the business model and makes it very difficult to get a return on that investment. As you are developing these programs the interest rates are absolutely critical. We found that the bonding requirements related to PACE were very costly, cumbersome, and in some areas had to be repeated over and over. We were never fans of developing a bonding program or having government administer those programs. In contrast, we did like the collection methodology as an assessment that is added to your tax bill. When we started our program it was before the Federal Housing and Finance Agency came out with their objections to PACE, which has essentially put all of the existing PACE programs around the country on hold. There are some commercial PACE Programs that are being looked at around Florida right now in Lantana, Lake Worth, Miami, and probably some in this area as well. Currently, there are no up and running PACE Programs in Florida that I'm aware of.

In St. Lucie County we wanted to take advantage of those cost effective, energy conservation efficiency firsts. It didn't make a lot of sense to put a solar PV system on your roof to create power to run your air conditioner and have that cold air go out the window. The pre-requisite need is conservation and efficiency and work your way up from there. We also found that the energy efficiency has the greatest return on investment and when you bundle those improvements with renewable energy improvements it actually makes renewable energy more economically viable.

The Mission of the Non-Profit SELF program is to *enhance consumer access to clean energy technologies by providing no-money down, low-interest rate (4%) loans*. What we are able to do is provide no money down, low interest rate loans that are fixed at 4%. It gets people over that hurdle of the high up-front cost and also provides you access to rebates and tax credits. Ultimately the investment you are making is not a luxury item, it's actually going to significantly reduce your energy bill so that you can use that savings to pay off the loan over time. People who are going through our program are actually making money in month one. The savings actually exceeds their loan amount.

What we decided to pursue was a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) program. We approached the Economic Development Council in St. Lucie County and they helped us branch out into our banks within the area and we talked to them about coming on board to invest in our CDFI. I was amazed at the level of interest that was received from the banking community. In a three week time frame we were able to secure three letters of interest for up to \$20 million for our program once we were certified as a CDFI. There are no binding requirements and essentially the reason I'm so supportive of the CDFI's is because of its ability to attract and leverage capital. Our program will actually work with or without PACE. We can use the PACE collection if it's viable or we can also strip that piece off and just use a CDFI as a loan and not have to deal with the assessment issue which means I don't have to deal with FHFA and Fannie and Freddie and try to get their permission for a land secured assessment on a land which they objected to.

There are more than 900 certified CDFIs across the country. They are administered by the US Treasury Department and they were created back in 1994 with very strong bipartisan support from Congress. We have about two dozen CDFIs in Florida and they are non-governmental entities. Most of them are involved in trying to help attract private capital for investment in affordable housing programs and they have been very successful. What we did is take that proven model and expanded into the energy sector. The best website is www.cdfifund.gov if you want to do more research. I would also point to one of the more noteworthy programs, Green CDFIs which can provide consumer loans for energy efficiency and renewable energy, and/or micro-loans to emerging green businesses. The most notable green CDFI in the nation is out of Portland, Oregon. They are working with a CDFI called Cascadia and they have done over 1,000 retrofits in their first year and they are hoping to double that amount in their second year.

Our program, Solar and Energy Loan Fund (SELF) provides no money down, low-interest rate loans for weatherization, insulation, HVAC, LED lighting, solar thermal, solar PV. We have about 30 products currently on our list and that list is growing everyday. We have a minimum requirement of 15% reduction in energy use. Those products have been tested and meet those standards and they will be eligible through our program. Currently we only offer residential loans, however, we are developing commercial loans and we will be bringing that to

our eight member board of directors on January 9th for approval. Commercial includes industrial, non-profits, churches, etc. Our minimum loan amount is \$2,500 and maximum is \$50,000. The average loan size is \$10,000. The interest rates are fixed at 4% and we also try to stretch out the term of the loan so we can lower the monthly payment as much as possible. The term of the loan can be stretched out so that it mirrors the life expectancy of the products that are being put in. If you are doing a smaller energy retrofit project for about \$5,000 you might see a loan that is in the 3-5 year range. If you are making an investment in a premium package and a solar PV system that could cost more than \$25,000 we will actually stretch out the terms of the loan to up to 15 years. Those systems are warranted for about 25 years. Lastly, CDFIs focus on trying to help working class areas. We have to do 60% of our loans in low to moderate income communities so we aren't bypassing the working class people. We are actually focusing on these targeted communities. In St. Lucie County, when we went through the process of determining those target communities, about 65% of our community was low to moderate income (LMI). We are doing about 80% of our loans so far in those targeted areas. This would be one limitation to CDFIs, if you went into some of the more affluent enclaves they would not meet the LMI component.

To date, SELF has been awarded three separate grants totaling \$3.3 million, including:

1. \$2.94 million Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant award from the US Department of Energy (DOE). We are using the DOE funds to help with start up money, administration for a three year time frame and to create the additional loan pool. We are concurrently seeking CDFI certification by the US Treasury and hope to have that achieved by October 2012. It's at that point that the banks would then find us as an attractive investment vehicle because they get community reinvestment credits, which are important to banks, particularly those that are expanding. They aren't giving us a handout, they are investing in our CDFI. They will also get a return on that investment. They also get a wide array of public benefits because they are helping with economic recovery, job creation, energy independence, and the list goes on and on.
2. \$300,000 from the Florida Energy and Climate Commission. This grant is important because it enables us to be able to offer a professional grade energy assessment to our clients. We aren't just handing them money, we are sending out a professional to do an assessment of their home or business and help them identify the most cost effective improvements they can make, and then you can use our loan program to invest in those technologies.
3. \$65,000 technical assistance grant from the US Department of Treasury for Marketing Research and Business Plans. This grant is being used for the CDFI application.

Questions & Comments:

- Council Member J. Miller: Is this presentation available on our website?
- Mr. Coward: Yes. We also have a website: www.cleanenergyloanprogram.org and you can get information there. In fact, there is more detail and you can download the applications. You can also see the list of our contractors, we have 35 different businesses that have come into our program. One in particular that jumps out at me that has done an incredible job of actually using us as a tool to market their products and services has done more than \$100,000 of business with us in the first six months of operation. I would save more than 80% of the work that has been done to date has been St. Lucie County businesses that are benefitting from this. As we expand the program we will bring in those new contractors as well. I think the economics is important, not only are we helping the hardest hit job sectors which are the construction workers and skilled craftsmen but as we can grow these programs throughout the state and have more of a regional impact I think we can begin to attract manufacturing and get the whole compliment of economic development opportunities.
- Councilman Newton: We had a breakfast the other morning with Progress Energy and I was talking to a gentleman about just what you were saying about being able to use our energy being the Sunshine State to try to be more energy efficient and sharing the cost. They do have credits for you if you Google it. However, your initial investment is around \$20,000 and that's a major deterrent to a lot of people. Also, they have a regulation in place where you can't sell power to your neighbor. How do you, if I'm going to attempt an assessment, do you take a second position on a mortgage?
- Mr. Coward: No. It's an unsecured loan. This is not a grant or a handout. You do have to be credit worthy. Our standards are a little below a commercial bank. If you can score a 650, if you fall below that we can appeal that to our loan committee. There are a number of factors that are considered. We work in partnership with another organization that actually offers grants. If they fall below that threshold we pass them on to another non-profit that can help them. Our program is a loan as opposed to an assessment that goes on your land.
- Councilman Newton: I can see the payback, especially from the power consumption from a normal home. It cuts the cost of running the a/c almost in half. That savings would make the loan payment.
- Vice Mayor Roff: Do you have a minimal efficiency rate that is required?
- Mr. Coward: Yes, I believe it's 14. We have a committee that reviews all those technologies and makes recommendations to the board. We have about 20-30 products and that is expanding everyday.

Commissioner Mariano: In looking at your presentation, the second slide which shows a list of opportunities, solar PV was high on the list and solar hot water heating was low.

Mr. Coward: There's a note in the report that says that because of the small size they weren't able to adequately assess that particular technology so I'm not sure that is a good reflection. I see it as a most cost effective renewable solar in the state. If you were to take a solar hot water system, which costs about \$4,000, in our neck of the woods you would immediately be eligible for a \$1,000 rebate from Florida Power & Light and then you would come to us with a net cost of \$3,000 and you would be able to get a ten year loan at 4% interest that would cost you \$30.00 a month on your loan payment. You put that system on your home and it would save you about 25-27% on your energy bill. Last month my bill was \$193 so I would expect to see about a \$45 return immediately from the energy savings and at the end of the year I can monetize a 30% federal tax credit through the 1603 program and actually get an additional \$1,200 in my pocket. I think we can actually make you money in year one using solar hot water systems.

Commissioner Mariano: I just replaced a hot water system and I couldn't entertain the thought of doing solar because I didn't have the cash for it. I will be happy to educate Pasco County on this program.

Mr. Coward: In the last week I've gotten a call from California asking if we would issue loans there and on Friday I got a call from Chicago asking if we would do loans there. We are currently only operating in St. Lucie County. I've been given direction by my board of directors to expand this program because we need to reach a certain economy as a scale in order to have sufficient loans to have the revenue to sustain our operating costs. I would not encourage this model to be replicated county by county. It makes far more sense for us to grow this program regionally and we've had some tremendous conversation with your staff about doing exactly that. We've had an opportunity to present to the Florida Regional Councils Association and I'm hopeful that we may be able to expand this program into the Tampa Bay region if there were interest. That would probably take 6-9 months because there are some pieces that need to be achieved in the process, but we are going to expand throughout the Treasure Coast, we are being courted by East Central Florida and specifically, the Space Coast Energy Consortium. They have offered us office space and money to hire an additional clean energy loan officer. One of the things I have been tasked with as executive director is to put this expansion model together, reach out to other parts of Florida to see if there is an interest in partnering with us, and grow this program accordingly.

Councilman Newton: Geo-thermal, do you do financing for things like that?

Mr. Coward: We haven't yet, our minimum standard is a 15% energy reduction. A lot of technologies meet that, and it doesn't necessarily have to be renewable. Yes, it's a potential that we could invest in other types. I would emphasize though that we are not investing in speculative technologies. They have to be proven and tested so that we know what the return on that investment is.

Councilman Newton: Geo-thermal systems work, my problem is the cost.

Mr. Coward: When we do the energy assessment and we work with our clients, we have a list of certified companies and products but we do not tell the clients who to hire, or which product to buy. We are neutral in that sense. Thank for the opportunity to be here and I look forward to working with Avera and Manny and hopefully we can evolve this program into the Tampa Bay area if there is an interest from this Council and local governments.

Chair Dodson thanked Mr. Coward for his presentation.

Councilman Newton: Is there anything we can do as a Council as far as a resolution to help move that along?

Chair Dodson: The Executive/Budget Committee will discuss this after the first of the year. Staff is already having a conversation with Mr. Coward.

Mr. Coward: I have \$3.3 million in existing grants, but I'm going to have a hard time convincing St. Lucie County to spend the grant dollars in Tampa Bay. However, I mentioned that we are basically evolving into a community development and financial institution. It is at that time when we are attractive to the banks so we can do a local loan pool. The time frame is that we will be submitting for CDFI certification in April. We anticipate that the process will take 3-6 months. Under the worse case scenario we will become certified as a CDFI by October of 2012 and it is at that time when money comes in that we have the ability to grow from there. That's how I came up with a 6-9 month time frame. One of the other things that a CDFI can do is actually provide micro-loans to businesses. Our program helps expand the markets and CDFIs can not only provide consumer loans to expand the markets, but as your local business wants to grow along with that you could also do micro-loans to them through a CDFI. There's the potential that we could partner with CDFIs that exist so that we would be doing different functions. My board is not interested in micro-loans, but they are interested in consumer loans.

Commissioner Mariano: Maybe a good option would be to go to Progress Energy and the

PSC and say, let's take that sum of money, loan it to your own people who pay in to it, give them a 0% loan and then take the other and keep it at 4%.

Mr. Coward:

We will continue to do our best to work with the utilities. We have found it best to navigate around the legislature and the utilities because we weren't making any progress. If there were the ability to work in conjunction with the utilities, we would do it in a heartbeat. When you move from the assessment methodology to a loan there's a key issue with working with your banks. Because local governments collection rate on the tax bills is around 98% that is sufficient security in and of itself for banks to invest into your program. When you strip off the PACE collection and move to a loan you need to develop an alternative security for the banks to invest. The model we developed is to create a loan loss reserve fund. There are some dollars at the state that are potentially available for the development of loan loss reserve funds. You can typically leverage those 10 to 1. If the state were able to provide or the PSC was able to provide or the utility could provide \$1 million for a loan loss reserve fund we can turn that into a \$10 million loan pool. The \$192 million available in bonds could be used for the loan loss reserve funds. If they put \$50 million of the \$192 million out as a loan loss reserve fund statewide, we would have \$1/2 billion loan pool to do this all over the state of Florida.

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

The Governor's proposed budget of \$66.4 billion is a reduction of \$2.9 billion from the current budget as well as a corresponding reduction of 4,400 positions. Unfortunately, funding for regional planning councils was not included in the Governor's proposed budget; nor was it included in the Department of Economic Opportunity's Legislative Budget Request. Nevertheless, our Tallahassee team continues to work with the legislature and the Governor's office to hopefully secure some funding for RPCs at the end of the process. In addition, the FRCA Executive Directors are actively engaging and working on common initiatives with a number of partner state agencies and are continuously seeking opportunities to enhance existing relationships, forge new partnerships, and identify funding and resources for RPCs.

There are a few bills that may be of interest to our membership:

SB 560 - Relating to Water Management Districts, sponsored by Senator Dean authorizes water management districts to enter into interagency agreements for resource management activities under specified conditions; providing applicability; requiring districts to apply specified reservations, minimum flows and levels, and recovery and prevention strategies in determining certain effects of proposed consumptive uses of water.

HB 679 Relating to Freight filed by Representative Ray. The bill rules provides tax credits of specified amount relating to achievement of increased cargo volumes by manufacturers that distribute manufactured good through port facilities; provides for use of tax credits against specifically enumerated taxes for specified number of tax years; provides eligibility criteria, limitations, conditions, requirements, & prohibitions relating to applying for, approving, claiming, calculating, issuing, carrying over, & redeeming of tax credits.

Senator Bennett filed SB 1180 Last Week regarding major revisions to DRI Florida Statute 380.06. The legislative intent limits DRI review issues to land use, environmental protection, and public facilities, including transportation. Issues regarding hurricane preparedness and affordable housing may be considered if the local government has an adopted ordinance that applies to all other developments.

The DRI legislation could be interpreted as allowing a Developer to modify entitlements within a DRI, including the potential introduction of new land use(s), without the requirement to be facilitated through the Notice of Proposed Change process and/or prior consultation with the regional planning council, the FDOT, an adjacent jurisdiction or any other review entity. The only caveat would be prior demonstration that the proposal does "not increase the number of external peak hour trips" and that the proposal does not reduce open space and/or conserved lands to the acceptance of the local government.

Also requiring that a local government having jurisdiction rescind a development of regional impact development order, upon request, and upon a showing that all required mitigation related to the amount of development that existed on the date of rescission will be completed under a permit or other authorization issued by a governmental agency without the requirement for completion of corresponding mitigation to address existing development, a current pre-requisite for rescission.. There is a companion bill, HB 979.

The RPC directors will be having a conference call this week to discuss the DRI bills.

Councilman Newton: Did EPA pass the requirement for Florida regarding the nutrients?

Mayor Black: I had a communication from the Florida League of Cities that the DEP has agreed to the regional consensus and that's being signed by the DEP Secretary. I can get you a copy of that. It will be a concern, but not as it was originally.

Chair Dodson mentioned that the Legislative Report is available to all who would like to receive it.

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

A. TBRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee - Ms. Wren Krahl

We have reached out to over 60 potential sponsors and continue to do so. I would like to thank our Council Members who have provided us with names and organizations which would potentially sponsor our events. I would especially like to thank Commissioner Brickfield and Mayor Peters, as well as Mr. Kersteen for actually attending meetings with us to approach the sponsors that they recommended.

Our events are only 3 months away and we are requesting that each Council Member take a moment to make a sponsor recommendation by filling out the form located in your folders. So far we have five entities that have given us a sponsorship and we have four other potentials that have already provided email commitments.

February 16th will be the 50th birthday of the Council so we will have a celebration at the February Council meeting.

B. NARC Conference 2012 - Ms. Wren Krahl

This event is taking place in June and is on the second burner right now. We will be starting to work very closely with NARC after the first of the year on the program, as well as speakers. We will put on a top notch event.

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson - None

11. Chair's Report - None

12. Executive Director's Report – Mr. Manny Pumariega

I would like to recognize staff. As you saw in the Annual Report, staff provides a high level of performance and continues to do so even though there has been a reduction in staff.

13. Outgoing Chair's Report – Chair Dodson

Commissioner Bustle, Incoming Chair, will provide his remarks at the February meeting.

I would like to begin by saying that it has been a pleasure and a honor to have a second opportunity to serve as your Chairman this past year. Since joining the Council in 2002, I've had the pleasure of working with a great group of folks who are really dedicated to their communities

and to the Council. Whenever an organization like the Regional Planning Council can serve it's constituency for almost 50 years, its longevity speaks to the dedication and purpose of its mission.

I would like to thank each of you for understanding the importance of coming together as a region and working beyond jurisdictional boundaries. I also want to thank you for graciously giving your time to serve your cities, counties, and the region. Each of you are leaders in your own communities and we are very lucky to have such a wide spectrum of expertise represented on this board. I would like to thank my fellow officers, Commissioner Larry Bustle and Mayor Bob Minning. Thank you for your support, your leadership and your dedication to this organization.

I would also like to thank each of the staff of the Regional Planning Council. Your years of tenure at the Council speak well of your ability, your dedication, and your spirit. Manny and the staff are dedicated individuals who work hard to implement the Council's mission. This is a small staff that does a tremendous amount of work. In the last three years, through attrition and retirements, the staff has absorbed the work of 3 positions that were not refilled. And, like so many in the workforce today, it has been 4 years since that last pay increase.

As your Chair, it has been fulfilling to work with the Council and the staff on important initiatives, such as, the One Bay Regional Vision, the electric vehicle Get Ready Tampa Bay initiative, the Project Phoenix Catastrophic Study, the completion of the Statewide Regional Evacuation Plan, the Statewide Disaster Resiliency Study, and the new Statewide Broadband Planning Initiative. Preparation and promotion of the 50th year celebration and the National Association of Regional Councils' conference, which will be held in June in St. Petersburg was a highlight for me.

No doubt about it, we will have an exciting year ahead. I look forward to continuing my service and supporting the incoming Slate of Officers. Thank you.

We will now reconvene outside for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station Commissioning.

Adjournment: 11:52 a.m.



Larry Bustle, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary