Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Council Minutes

March 12, 2012
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT
Chair, Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County
Vice Chair, Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Past Chair, Vice Mayor Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Vice Mayor Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach
Councilman Sam Henderson, City of Gulfport
Council Member Doreen Hock-DiPolito, 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
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Council Member Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Vice Mayor Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Gary Wishnatzki, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Vice Mayor Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District
Ms. Pamela Vazquez, Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection

OTHERS PRESENT
Scott Davis, Senior Manager, CH&H
Bill Jonson, Council Member, City of Clearwater
John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Gail Neidinger, Commissioner, City of S. Pasadena
Roger Roscoe, Regional Rep. For Governor Scott
Jason Mickel, Senior Planner, SWFWMD
Will Augustine, Planner, Hillsborough County Planning Commission
Ms. Julia Greene, Former Exec. Director of TBRPC

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 Admin & Public Info.
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 Bustle
The March 12, 2012 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Councilor Bob Matthews, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary
A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary - None

Announcements: - Chair Bustle
Chair Bustle thanked Councilor Bob Matthews for providing the refreshments for this morning's Council Meeting. Bob has been doing this for us for the past 3 years. He is also donating balloon bouquets for our 50th Anniversary Celebration at the Vinoy. And even more exciting, he is also going to create a "bigger than life" 3-D balloon display using the Council logo. It will flank the entrance at our events coming up on the 23rd. Thank you, Bob! Please remember Bob and Seminole Garden Florist when you need flowers or balloons for a special occasion or a special event.

New Member Introduction - Chair Bustle
Please join me in welcoming City of Clearwater Council Member, Doreen DiPolito. The city recently completed their new committee assignments and she will be taking the place of Council Member Bill Jonson. However, as you all know, we work closely with Bill on the Courtney Campbell Causeway. He

will be providing us with an update later on our agenda. Welcome Council Member DiPolito and thank you Bill for your dedicated service.

Chair Bustle welcomed Julia Greene, former Executive Director of the TBRPC; Roger Roscoe, Special Assistant to Governor Scott; and Bob Schmidt, Planner, Manatee County.

F.O.R and 50th Anniversary - Chair Bustle
As you all know, we have two big events coming up on March 23rd. Wren will be providing an update on the 20th Annual Future of the Region Awards and the 50th Anniversary Celebration later on the agenda. She will also fill us in on the NARC Conference coming up in June. If you haven't signed up for these two events please contact staff and they will register you, or you can register yourself by going to the web site (www.tbrpc.org)

Recognition of Service
Council Member Bill Jonson will no longer be representing the City of Clearwater. Bill has served on our Council for two separate terms. He served from 2001-2003 and has served us once again since 2010. In recognition of his dedicated service, Council Member Jonson was presented with an engraved bookmark.

> Council Member Jonson said he has enjoyed the interactions of all the members of the Council and the opportunity to interact with folks from the region. Regional cooperation is so important and thank you for your service, and I thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Kathleen Peters will no longer be representing the City of South Pasadena. Mayor Peters has served on the Council since 2009 and she has been very helpful and instrumental in securing sponsorships for our upcoming events. Mayor Peters will be presented with an engraved bookmark in recognition of her service to the Council. Mayor Peters was absent at this time.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Andy Núñez
   The minutes from the February 13, 2012 regular meeting were approved. (Kersteen/Roff)

2. **Budget Committee** – Secretary/Treasurer, Mr. Andy Núñez
   A. The Financial Report for the period ending 1/31/12 was approved. (Mulhern/Brown)
   B. Approve the FY 2011 Annual Audit.
   Scott Davis, Senior Manager, Cherry Bekaert & Holland presented the Annual Audit. Mr. Davis stated the FY 2011 Annual Audit was presented to the Executive Budget Committee in February and it was approved unanimously. We issued an unqualified opinion which is a clean opinion, no errors or omissions. There was a new pronouncement issued - GASB54. On page 13, the fund balances in the general fund have changed from reserve designated to un-designated, non-spendable, restricted, assigned and unassigned. This was to increase clarity. Restricted means that there are external restrictions from laws, contracts, etc. Assigned means assigned by management and/or the board and un-assigned is what is left over. We also issued a "no comment" in the Government Auditing Standards Report which means there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. Overall it was a very clean audit and we would like to thank management for allowing us to be here.

   The FY 2011 Annual Audit was approved (Kersteen/J. Miller)

3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Bustle
   A. **Budget and Contractual** - None

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

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - February 2012
2. IC&R Database - February 2012

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)

1. DRI # 35 - Bayonet Point Shopping Mall, Pasco County
2. DRI # 261 - Ashley Glen (Rescission), Pasco County

Recommended Action: Approve staff report
Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29.

E. Notice of Proposed Change Reports (NOPC) - None

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

DRI # 211 - Meadow Pointe, RY 2010-11 ARS, Pasco County
Recommended Action: Approve staff report
Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

G. DRI Status Report

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.
Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the 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. DEO # 12-2ESR, Pasco County (adopted) No Report
2. DEO # 12-1ESR, Manatee County (adopted) No Report
3. DEO # 12-3ESR, Manatee County (proposed)
4. DEO # 11-2ESR, City of Tarpon Springs (proposed)
5. DEO # 12-1ESR, City of Tarpon Springs (adopted) No Report
6. DEO # 12-2ESR, Pinellas County (proposed)

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.
Staff contact: Jessica Lundsford, ext. 38

I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP) - None

The following report(s) are presented for Council action:
Staff contact: Jessica Lundsford, ext. 38

J. East Central Florida RPC Resolution

Resolution #2012-01. A resolution of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the East Central Florida RPC. The TBRPC congratulates the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council on its 50th Anniversary and recognizes its contributions in advancing the regional agenda.

Action Recommended: Approve Resolution #2012-01

The consent agenda was approved. (J. Miller/Peters)

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. **John Kaliski, Cambridge Systematics** provided U.S. Economic Trends and Conditions in Florida and the Tampa Bay region. He also provided a recap of the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) Regional Stakeholders Forum that was held on March 1, 2012.

Last year the Governor and the legislature re-organized Florida's economic development functions and created a new Department of Economic Opportunity combining portions of the Governor's Office of Tourism, Economic Development, the Agency for Workforce and the Department of Community Affairs. The statutes require DEO to develop and regularly update a 5-year strategic plan for economic development. This is intended to be a plan for the entire state, focusing on the role of state agencies and state/public private partnerships such as Enterprise Florida and Workforce Florida, and to have guidance for other regional/local entities that are involved in economic development including the RPCs.

Section 20.60(5)(a)4, F.S. requires DEO to develop and regularly update a 5 year strategic plan which must include strategies for:

- Business formation, expansion, recruitment, retention
- Economic diversification
- Targeted economic development and job creation in rural areas and mid-size cities and counties
- Foreign investment, international business
- Current or future targeted industry clusters
- Talent development
- Long-term economic development

We have been working with the DEO in this planning process. Since October we have synthesized over 30 statewide existing plans in relation to economic development to identify common issues and potential strategies, as well as looking at the eleven comprehensive economic development strategies that the RPCs adopt. There was a one-day workshop in Largo in November with 100 stakeholders statewide attending and we talked about the overall framework for that plan. We are now in the middle of holding regional forums around the state on key issues. A draft plan will be published later this spring for public comment and the goal is to have it adopted by the Department toward the end of spring. The goal is to be implemented later this year and coordinate this overall strategic plan and to measure progress over time.

We are looking at this partnership between the DEO and the eleven RPCs. It is the kind of thing that even six months ago people were dreaming about - having a statewide plan and the eleven Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies all updated at the same time, using the same data, using the similar framework and outline, with the goal of having truly integrated statewide, regional plans covering the entire state that will be in place by the end of this year. On behalf of DEO, I would like to thank Manny and his team for their support of the forums, providing the electronic voting system which has been critical to all of the forums and also staff's support.

A key component is Job Creation. Between 2000 and 2007, over 1.1 million jobs were created statewide in Florida. During the recession there was a decline of over 900,000 jobs between 2007 and 2010. 2011 has shown a modest increase of over 135,000 jobs created statewide. We are regaining jobs but there is a lot of ground to regain statewide, and in this region as well. This region grew almost as quickly as the state during most of the expansion period. Looking at unemployment,

statewide unemployment was about 4% during the peak in 2007 . There are about 900,000 people unemployed statewide right now and over half of them have been unemployed for 6 months or more. It is a very significant long-term issue. We are also looking at wages and income levels. Florida traditionally has a lower per capita income than the nation as a whole, mostly due to lower wages. That gap was closed during the expansion period. Now we are about 4% below after adjusting for inflation over the last couple of years. We are waiting for the 2010 data to come out. We need to create jobs, reduce unemployment and raise the standard of living in the region and statewide.

As you look ahead coming out of the recession there are a couple of trends locally that are very important for this region and for Florida. The first is the idea that we are truly a global market. We have enjoyed this period for the last couple of decades in the United States, by far the most prosperous economy in the world. Expectations are that by the year 2050 China will be the largest economy and India will be catching up to the United States, there is a lot of growth in Brazil and Central & South America. There is also a lot of growth in Africa. There is a tremendous opportunity for Florida businesses and to salvage business services worldwide. There is also a tremendous challenge with more and more competition globally in almost every industry.

There are some clear concentrations of activity and Florida is an important player. The key players worldwide, and those that are expected to become more important in the future are those that are pretty much tied into that flow of world trade and investment. There are also the regions that are innovative and specialize in particular activities. That's the framework we are looking at for this plan, how do we make Florida globally competitive?

It is important to work together regionally and this region is one of the leaders in the state in terms of thinking about how do we work on a greater scale? The four counties represented by this Council, the eight counties represented by the Tampa Bay Partnership and how does this region connect across Central Florida and the Space Coast in terms of the high tech corridor and how it all fits together. A lot of projections suggest that by 2050 the Florida peninsula will be functioning as an integrated mega-region, one of ten or eleven U.S. regions that will be competing globally and will drive U.S. growth in the future. Traditionally Florida has competed based on a lot of land for development at low cost, great climate, and natural resources. All of that is very important but in the future, how does Florida compete with the other leading regions worldwide?

A concept known as the Six Pillars of Florida's Economy, developed by the Florida Chamber Foundation, identifies what the drivers of a future economy of the state will be. They are being adopted by a number of state agencies, the RPCs, and other economic development organizations. The opportunity here is to have a common framework that can be used for public and private plans and for state and regional local plans statewide.

Talent Supply & Education is the first Pillar and this will look at the education system and workforce training and development. There is a very strong correlation between educational attainment and income levels. In 2010, statewide, the workforce that had not received a high school diploma over 20% were unemployed. Those who have bachelor's degrees or higher, about 6% unemployed. There is a very similar correlation between educational attainment and earning levels. Statewide the estimates of new jobs created over the next decade will require some form of post secondary education and training. It might be a four year degree or a two year degree, or it might be a vocational program, but something beyond high school. The last class that has been tracked all the way through the system, those that entered 9th grade in 2002, 6 of those students out of 10 graduated from high school within 4 years, 3 of those 6 went on to college within 2 years of their high school graduation, and 2 out of 3 received some form of college credit within 2 years. The numbers seem to have

improved since then but we haven't tracked another entire class all the way through the system. But obviously there is a big gap between the 4 out of 5 jobs that require something beyond high school education. Pretty much every state is struggling with this gap in some degree. The state that is most successful in closing this gap will be the most competitive state in the future. When you look at this region the educational attainment is similar to the state and national profile. About 47% of the adult population has a bachelor's degree or higher so there is a lot to build upon, but also some room to improve with educational attainment and workforce skills.

The second pillar is Innovation & Economic Development. The key question here is, how do we diversify Florida's economy? Traditionally we thought of Florida's economy as a three legged stool, driven by agriculture, natural resources, construction (homebuilding, retail), tied to population growth. All of these are still important but there could be a 4th or 5th leg added to the stool. Regions across the state are looking at industries like health care or services or world trade or manufacturing or high tech for future elements of the economy. Really one of the best examples we've seen in collected plans from around the state is the regional business plan that TBRPC worked on with the Tampa Bay Partnership in terms of targeting future sectors. Two key themes as you look across the regions of the state are the importance of innovation and producing research and development activities of businesses and universities and research labs that's producing new inventions which can be the basis for new businesses. The real challenge is that this pipeline doesn't appear to be big enough. Florida has about 6% of the nations population and the most recent year data available, Florida had 2% of all R&D spending. About 3% of all patents issued, and 1% of all venture capital deals. We are looking at how to increase and sustain all the high level effort for R&D and venture capital in Florida to help diversify the economy.

Another key question is, how do we stand in our global world? Florida is a global leader today. The state ranks 4th in the 50 states for the value of exports. We rank 2nd for international visitors. A couple of years ago Enterprise Florida and the Florida Chamber of Commerce doubled the value of Florida orange exports over the next five years. Two years in to that we have seen very strong growth, exports grew 17% statewide last year. What is exciting about the export growth is that it is great for the ports and airports in Florida, but it's also great for manufacturing and agriculture and for mining and services.

The next pillar is Infrastructure & Growth Leadership. Do we have the transportation, tele-communications, water, energy, to meet the needs and to support that international market growth? Are we globally connected so that we can support the 19 commercial service airports, the 15 deep water seaports in the state? We are also looking at how to provide connectivity to get people to and from their jobs and services in the future and looking at the results of the regional vision such as One Bay that has been developed around the state. How does that drive future growth in helping the state support these regional initiatives? One of the key things we are looking at is, how do we add sufficient transportation and water and energy to meet future needs. One example is the FDOT transportation corridors statewide and the congestion during peak periods. How do we provide alternatives to the highway system to support future growth? We can have the same conversation about water or energy or other forms of infrastructure.

The fourth pillar is Business Climate & Competitiveness. Florida is a state where people want to start, grow or expand a business. We looked at how Florida compares to other states as far as business relocations, etc. Florida ranked 4th in 2010 in terms of the net number of businesses moving into the state, minus those moving out. A very interesting trend is that we are gaining businesses from the northeast and mid-west, but we are losing businesses to other states in the southeast, Texas and the west coast. The key issue here seems to be an increase in costs. Florida now ranks 11th among the

states in terms of the cost of doing business and all the wages are slightly below average. There have been big increases over the last decade in health care costs, electricity under energy costs, property taxes, insurance, the number of business costs. We are looking at how to bring down business costs and continue to make Florida competitive for business locations.

The next pillar is Civic & Governance Systems. What is the goal of the public sector and the non-profit sector in supporting private activity? Florida has emerged from the recession in better fiscal shape than many of the other large states that are dealing with multi-billion dollar deficits but the state's budget and local government's budgets remain tight. How can we tap into the huge growth in non-profit organizations statewide as a partner in the economic sector as well? One of the real challenges here is as the economy becomes more regional, how do we increase collaboration between cities and counties and between all the different organizations that are involved in economic development? Each of those has their own boundary, their own planning horizon, their own processes so the importance of regional collaboration is to bring together all these partners who have common issues.

And finally, Quality of Life & Quality Places. None of this matters if people don't want to live and work and raise a family in Florida. Florida ranks 3rd among the states, even with a reduced number from the past, in terms of migration. In other words, people moving into Florida minus those moving out. We are gaining residents from the northeast and the mid west and we are losing residents to other states in the southeast. This seems to be driven in the last couple of years with the decrease in job opportunities. The quality of life took a hit during the recession and about half of our residents surveyed said the state was worse off than five years ago but some said they thought things would get better.

The statewide vision that has been adopted by the Steering Committee is *Florida will have the nation's top performing economy and be recognized as the world's best place to do business*. The Steering Committee consists of Governor Rick Scott, Gray Swoope-Secretary of Commerce & CEO of Enterprise Florida, Chris Hart-CEO of Workforce Florida, and Cynthia Lorenzo-Interim Executive Director of DEO. They did networking based on stakeholder input on a series of goals and objectives, very much in the same direction to lead the nation in worldwide competitiveness across a number of areas - business, investment, talent, visitors, innovation, top performing economy, job growth, wage growth, etc. There are a number of objectives being developed. 1) Lead the nation in high quality job creation; 2) increase employment; 3) reduce unemployment; 4) increase prosperity for Florida workers; 5) lead the nation in student performance and market-related workforce skills; 6) increase business start ups, expansions, and relocations into Florida; 7) increase global trade and investment; 8) lead the nation in business climate, infrastructure, and services to meet the needs of business; 9) increase competitiveness for all of Florida's regions; and, 10) lead the nation in quality of life in Florida's communities.

Some of the strategies that came out of the Regional Forum in Tampa a few weeks ago and are potential areas where the state can assist the region are:

- Talent Supply and Education had an emphasis on linking workforce needs and solutions to future business growth. What do employers need? How can workforce agencies provide what they need? How do we teach innovation in the schools and have that as a key part of our education system? A big emphasis is on career paths - how do we create opportunities for people to work where ever they are and have a path towards a higher wage and a higher value of employment? How can the state support that? Perhaps through mentoring, networking, etc.
- Innovation & Economic Development. This is a common theme in many regions, having policies that are easy, efficient, that are a committed vision. If we adopt a statewide plan, how can all the agencies align their policies around it? This region is very strong on this issue. How do we

focus state resources under the vision?

- Infrastructure & Growth Leadership. Key words within the transportation system are regional and multi-modal and improve regional coordination of economic development, land use, infrastructure, water, and natural resources decisions. What is started as a 50 year process for One Bay, how do we do that statewide?
- Business Climate & Competitiveness. Ensure state and local agencies provide collaborative, seamless customer services to businesses. Develop sustainable resources dedicated to fund economic development for targeted industries. Provide predictable, competitive, consistent tax, legal, and regulatory processes statewide.
- Civic & Governance Systems. Provide capacity to invest in state and regional economic development priorities.
- Quality of Life and Quality Places. Sustain Florida's natural environment while encouraging quality growth and development. Create and sustain vibrant, healthy, distinctive, diverse communities.

What's next? The Statewide Strategic Plan. We have four more forums over the next couple of weeks and then we will be working with the Steering Committee to pull together all of the input obtained from the forums and develop a draft for public comment in the spring, and adopt by June. In parallel, each of the RPCs are working on their Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) which will be drafted by spring and adopted by the fall. Then these will be aligned together and moving forward to implementation with state and regions all working together.

Questions & Comments:

Council Member J. Miller: The way I see it, the two deal breakers are transportation and education. The Governor turned down a unique opportunity with the high speed rail and the federal government funding. And secondly, the legislature keeps trying to cut funding to the universities.

Mr. Kalinski: I think the regional forums are underscoring the importance of both education and transportation and that is something the Steering Committee will be looking at.

Ms. Todd: Rail is in the past and we have to move forward. One of the things that came out of the forum is that if we try to solve the problems in the same way we won't get anywhere. There was a lot of creative thinking and I'm hopeful. I know your City Council and the County Commission is really struggling with economic shortfalls. A lot of that thinking went into the discussion. What are we going to do? We have a million dollar job here and maybe $500,000.

Commissioner Crist: Earlier you mentioned that Florida was third in destination for those relocating. Who was first and second?

Mr. Kalinski: Texas and North Carolina.

Commissioner Crist: Has any research been done to determine what the competitive edge is that they have?

Mr. Kalinski: We've been looking at some of the research on that. Certainly the last couple of years they have had a better job market.

Commissioner Crist: So diversity of economic opportunities, and they probably have a better prepared workforce.

Mr. Kalinski: I would say in Texas the recession was much less severe in part because of the diversity with the energy sector. Also they did not have the severe real estate cycle as Florida did so their overall economy was stronger.

Commissioner Crist: They weren't depending as heavily on real estate and development as Florida

has in the past.

Councilman Newton: A lot of interest went into getting more people in cars to travel and the culmination of that was a substantial amount of money. You speak of a five year plan. Will that plan withstand a new administration? Who is to say that a new administration won't set us back another 10 years?

Mr. Kalinski: The goal is to have a plan that is implemented that all of the agencies are committed to. Part of the thinking behind adopting the Six Pillars is the framework that's also tied to the work that the Florida Chamber Foundation is doing with their 20 year plan. The long term goal is to move to a 50 year statewide vision after we pull together all of the regional visions from around the state.

Councilman Newton: Short of being a part of the constitution I don't see it withstanding another administration. You spoke about jobs, and we know the amount of jobs that would have been obtained from transportation such as rail, and the funding was in place. You go through all of these stats but if the administration is not willing, out it goes and we start all over again. I don't want to rehash rail, but lets just say that if the individual is not on board now, then it won't move forward because that's what happens.

Chair Bustle: I think that's a good statement. I really believe that there is a perception that transportation and education are anchor issues and major shortcomings that keep Florida from moving ahead. I don't see a rationalization between that perception and where you are headed with the DEO vision. It just doesn't seem that the gap is being bridged.

Mr. Kalinski: I appreciate that feedback. Certainly the research and the forums have highlighted those two issues.

Vice Mayor Roff: There are a lot of issues that came up but the one that I think is something that we can actually do something about at the statewide level is education. The whole thinking of the new economy is, we figure out how to become the next Silicon Valley type enterprise. It's a new industry, start-ups is where the new economy is going to come from and the whole concept behind that type of thinking is going out of the box, relying more heavily on creative thinking and definitely relying more on education. I think what we really need to be doing is focusing on and overhauling our education system, not in the ways we are currently looking at. We need to be doing more creative type education. One thing that came up was that people don't think that trade schooling is educational, but actually building things is a way of creative class thinking.

Mr. Kalinski: I would say that the thinking is out there and there is a lot of interest and at one of the forums it was suggested that technical schools, hands on, opportunities, and thinking about having diversity in educational tasks for the future.

Commissioner Brickfield: We attempted to lump transportation in with public transit. Just in the Tampa Bay area right now we have a Bus Rapid Transit initiative in Hillsborough County, we are looking at high occupancy lanes across I-275 from Tampa to St. Pete, we are building new bridges or planning to - including Howard Franklin, we have that new roadway that connects I-4 with the Port of Tampa which is directly connected to moving freight, and we are investing in all of the ports statewide. We had this idea that it's High Speed Rail or nothing but High Speed Rail is only a small sliver of all the transportation needs that we have in our region and we have limited funding.

Councilman Newton: For transportation we could model after someone that has been very successful and that's Disney. They have hundreds of acres of property and they have all kinds of things going on throughout the park. But we realized a long time ago that if you couldn't get a different form of transportation then you couldn't get the money out of DOTs pockets. At Disney, everyone is moved by water, monorail, trains to get you to areas so you can go throughout that park and not be in one area only. Clearwater is challenged with the same thing. The problem is moving people around. You will not concrete your way out of this. You have to find a way to get the people into areas where they can spend that commerce. We have a lot of people coming here to spend money but they stay in one area because it's difficult to get around. Myself, I love to travel but I hate to drive.

Mr. Pumariega: A current study by FDOT is underway regarding Freight mobility. They have a lot of data and innovative solutions. They hired a gentleman, Mr. Flores. I have heard him speak and was impressed and I think they will make some headway because freight has a tremendous impact on mobility, whether it be personal mobility traveling to and from work, or transit, etc. Enterprise Florida and DEO are working very diligently to provide funding for start ups. The Transportation Commission is also looking at how to raise more revenue for the transportation system in Florida. Attempts are being made to tackle all areas of transportation. Hopefully we can start making headway in education. I'm not sure what the answer is, whether it is going to take a complete retrofit of the education system but we need to talk more to teachers, people down in the trenches. They have a lot of the answers.

Commissioner Crist: When you look at Florida and you look at where the economic centers are in our state, down in south Florida and around Orlando and Central Florida, and you look closer at what are they doing that we aren't doing successfully and that's collaborating. We say we collaborate, but we don't. We compete. True collaboration is sitting down and taking a look at what each of our various sectors of our communities have to offer and then take a look at how we build on that. We have two ports in Tampa Bay and a port that used to be, but isn't anymore that could be reopened. And it could operate as one. And if they did the research there would be the biggest set of resources on the Gulf of Mexico. If Tampa moved their dirty industry from their port to Port Manatee that has 1,000 acres of developable land that's not environmentally sensitive we would have a better shot at the federal government taking that money that they would have put in Florida for transportation and digging a channel. The channel into Port Manatee is shorter than going down the center of Tampa Bay and there's very little environmental impact. It could be done. When you are talking cargo you aren't talking height, you are talking depth. So the height of the Skyway is not the factor. St. Petersburg is probably one of the most romantic destination port sites that we have in this state. There is an entire industry that doesn't even come to the United States because we don't have the kinds of ports of call that they need for their fluent high-end travelers, and that's the boutique ship/yacht industry. You have to fly into the Mediterranean and board one of these. And you are talking high disposal incomes that are not impacted right now by the economy and St. Petersburg would be the ideal site to be able to host that. Cargo ships with containers could go to the Tampa Port. The City of Tampa could expand into the land that would render the highest tax base to the city which would go along the waterfront because those two industries could get along. We look at our

airports. We have three regional airports - why? There were just two deals that were messed up in Europe because we were competing against each other for it. None of us got the business. Why not one airport authority and work together collaboratively. Just like transportation. OK, we can sit back and cry about something we didn't get, but what about what we have – the existing transportation networks that are in place, and how we can link them. Do you know how difficult it is to get from the Tampa Airport out to the beach? Where is the Convention Center in the Bay Area? It's in downtown Tampa. Why don't we have a launch, a hover launch, that would get you to your city in 15 minutes in Bradenton? That could travel from Tampa to St. Petersburg in 15 minutes? Why aren't we looking at what we have and how do we harness it and then go after Texas and North Carolina and get better businesses? We have more to offer than they do. These are the innovative things that will turn this state around and generate higher rankings for the Governor.

Chair Bustle: What do you recommend as the next step?

Commissioner Crist: I think we need to step out there boldly Mr. Chairman, you set up a couple of task forces to take a look at what opportunities there are within our region and how do we go about eliminating the silos that stand in the way so that we can collaborate together. Maybe its not creating one authority, maybe its creating a limited partnership for a duration of a period of time. But at least lets start pooling our resources. The strength of the sum of our parts.

Chair Bustle: As you may well know, I am the Chairman of the Manatee County Port Authority and I wholeheartedly agree with what you said. I'm all for that.

Commissioner Crist: You have the land, Tampa has the bonding authority, and St. Petersburg is sitting there unused. Why not capitalize on all three of those opportunities? Like the airports, we start with Pinellas and the Tampa Airport collaborating together.

Mr. Nunez: Not only that, you would have to throw into the mix HART and PSTA, multiple MPOs. Do we need an MPO in Pinellas and in Hillsborough?

Commissioner Crist: You look at where the tourism potential is - we have three counties with the beaches. There is so much that we have together when we look at the Tampa Bay region as a whole. I see this group being the leader in coming forth and pulling all of those parts together. Each of our counties are going to fight for their own leadership and their own domain. Why not take the high road and start looking at what resources we have and how do we link them? Then each of us take that back to our silos and begin to open those doors.

Chair Bustle thanked Mr. Kalinski for his presentation.

7. Council Member Comments

Council Member J. Miller: March 23-25 is Oldsmar's Days. All were invited to attend.

Councilman Newton: March 22 is the Festival of States Night Parade will take place in downtown St. Pete, along the waterfront. It starts at 7 p.m. Also the St. Pete Grand Prix takes place March 23-25. This is the Indy Car Series.

With the arrival of Mayor Peters, Chair Bustle presented her with an engraved bookmark. Mayor Peters introduced Commissioner Gail Neidinger who will be her replacement. She is newly elected and will be sworn in on Tuesday.

8. **Program Reports**

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

The full Agency met on January 12th.

On the agenda were several interesting items.

- Mr. Frank Hearne described the recent history of federal and state efforts to adopt numeric nutrient criteria for Florida waters, and the current state of the process.

- Ms. Misty Cladas of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program gave an overview of the program's Bay Mini-grants, which has awarded more than $1 million since its inception for community-based education and restoration projects. She also discussed the Estuary Program's effort to raise the price of the Tampa Bay Estuary Specialty License Plate from $15 to $25 per plate. As of Friday, March 9th, this amendment was still in SB 1122.

- Captain John Slaughter, US Coast Guard Miami District, briefed us on the federal effort to ensure that the oil drilling rig which will be drilling 70 miles off the south Florida coast, in Cuban waters, will meet US standards for safety and operations. He also described the strategies to protect sensitive Florida coastal habitat in the event of a spill. Hydrographic models show a very minimal chance that oil from the drilling rigs would enter the Gulf of Mexico or reach our area.

The Agency's Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review and its Habitat Restoration committees met jointly on March 8th. This was also a very interesting meeting. Agenda items included:

- An update by Ms. Jennette Seachrist of the Southwest Florida Water Management District on SWIM projects in the Tampa Bay area alone. Since inception in 1987m 79 habitat restoration projects totalling 2,700 acres have been completed and runoff treatment has been improved for more than 50,000 acres. Ms. Seachrist explained a number of projects currently underway that will significantly help Tampa Bay water quality.

- Ms. Lindsay Cross of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program discussed the proposed Tampa Bay Habitat Restoration Partnership and some related projects underway. For example: development of a wetland protection plan which ties mitigation to a coordinated plan for wildlife habitat; prioritizing research needs; and assessing critical coastal habitat.

- Ms. Ana Mena of the City of Safety Harbor outlined the City's plan to restore Mullet Creek and surrounding habitats as well as other waterfront projects.

The next full Agency meeting will be April 12th. All are welcome.

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

Legal Counselor Don Conn provided the Legislative Report.

The Florida Legislature adjourned early Saturday morning after its 60 day regular session, but will be returning to Tallahassee on Wednesday to deal with Senate Redistricting as a result of the Supreme Court's ruling last week.

As far as we have been able to determine over the weekend, the Final Action on Bills of Importance to Regional Planning Councils and Local Governments is as follows:

Bills That Passed and Are on Their Way to the Governor:

1. Growth Management Glitch Bill (HB-7081) – Fixes obsolete language and statutory references as a result of last year's major growth management revisions. The Bill "Grandfathers"local government charter provisions in effect on June 1, 2011, relating to an initiative or referendum process for approval of Development Orders and Comprehensive Plan Amendments. In addition, Military Base Commanders may provide advisory comments to local governments on comprehensive plan changes that affect the mission, safety or economic vitality of military installations, and local governments must consider those comments in the same manner as any other reviewing agency's comments.

2. DRIs (HB-979) – Creates a new substantial deviation exemption for DRIs that do not increase the number of external peak hour trips, and do not reduce open space and conservation areas within a development. This means that these DRIs are exempt from the NOPC process. Another DRI exemption is provided for qualified target industries when DEO, an affected local government and a developer enter into an agreement which provides the terms and conditions under which the local government will assess the impacts of such development. The bill also preempts local government land use by creating an agricultural enclave exemption process. Concerning Regional Planning Councils the bill provides that RPC review can only include affordable housing issues if the Council has adopted an affordable housing policy as part of its Strategic Policy Plan. It also states that Regional Planning Council reports must contain recommendations that are consistent with standards required by applicable state permitting agencies or the water management districts.

3. Growth Policy (HB-4003) – Repeals provisions relating to the urban infill and redevelopment assistance grant program created in 1991 and terminates the program.

4. Department of Economic Opportunity (HB-7041) – this is the DEO Glitch Bill that updates and revises statutory references to conform to last year's legislation creating this agency.

5. Environmental Resource Permitting (HB-7003) – Requires DEP to adopt statewide rules to regulate the management and storage of surface waters and which will replace current water management district regulations.

6. Regional Workforce Boards (HB-7023) – Originally the bill would have provided that Executive Directors and Board Members serve at the pleasure of the Governor, but compromise language in the bill now only allows the Governor to remove individuals in those positions for cause.

7. Numeric Nutrients (HB-7051) – the bill allows Florida to override federal water pollution regulations with a more flexible threshold standard that is exempt from challenge before the Division of Administrative Hearings, and which shall be submitted to EPA for review.

Bills That Did Not Pass

1. Prohibition on Implementation of Transportation Concurrency (HB-603 & SB-912)
2. Ban On, or Regulation Of, Internet Cafes (HB-3 & SB-428; HB-467 & SB-380)

3. Destination Gaming Resorts (HB-487 & SB-710)
4. Online Travel Company Tax Exemption (HB-1393 & SB-1888)
5. Prohibition on Red Light Cameras (HB-343; HB-4177 & SB-1542)
6. Public Testimony at Meetings (HB-355 & SB-206)

Mr. Pumariega: In anticipation that we would be included in the budget for $2.5 million, we have been working with some of the key staff in the Governor's office to preserve the funding. In the next few days we will be providing a report to the Governor's office that will reflect the productivity of the RPCs over the past 10 years. The report will show the return on investment to the state appropriation and the value RPCs provide to our state.

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. Council Member Bill Jonson, City of Clearwater, provided a short update on the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway.

The Scenic Highway Program is a part of the federal scenic highway program, each state was allowed to implement their own program. Florida's program was implemented in 1994 and the goals of the program are to preserve, maintain, protect and enhance Florida's outstanding cultural, historical, archeological, recreational, natural and scenic resources; and to expand the travelers experience beyond just reaching a destination. Right now there are only 24 in the state and Courtney Campbell is one of those 24.

In 2001, TBRPC adopted a policy to encourage Scenic Highways within the region and the Courtney Campbell Causeway is unique because it bridges Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties and bridges municipalities. One of the state requirements was to identify a Corridor Management Entity and we came to TBRPC and asked if they would assume that role and they did. We thank you for that and we especially thank you for the assistance of Jessica Lunsford for her support. The designation was approved by the Florida Secretary of Transportation in 2005 and since that time we have had a 75th anniversary re-dedication of the Causeway. The Corridor Advisory Committee (CAC) consists of members from Clearwater, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Pinellas County, MPO's of both counties, the Westshore Alliance, the Clearwater Chamber, and various citizens. The principal role of the CAC under the RPC is to advise and encourage the implementation of the Corridor Management Program. We don't have any money so we do all of this through partnerships and grants. Our objectives within the Corridor Management Program are: resource protection, enhance vehicle and pedestrian safety, build community support, educate community and visitors on the natural and historic resources along the scenic highway, economic development/tourism, improve pedestrian and bicycle transportation alternatives and connections, enhance visual appearance, and cross the Bay Recreational Trail. There currently is a service road that parallels much of the roadway and there is a lot of use of this roadway for bicycling, jogging, picnicking, wading, fishing and roller-blading.

Council Member Jonson showed a promotional video of the Courtney Campbell Scenic Highway and in closing thanked the Regional Planning Council for their support.

B. TBRPC 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee & NARC Conference 2012

Ms. Wren Krahl provided an update. First and foremost, I would like to thank our Council members for all their help with sponsors. We have raised close to $55,000. The event is well underway and I would like to encourage all of you to please register yourself and a guest. The Future of the Region Awards will take place at 12 noon and run until 2pm. We will have exhibits and deserts with sponsors from 2pm until 3:30pm at which time the 50th Celebration will begin and that will run until 6pm. It is Grand Prix weekend and I would encourage you to arrive a little early. The Vinoy will provide discounted parking for garage parking or valet parking. When you register you will be presented with a decal. For those of you that are familiar with the Vinoy, we will be in the newer section by the 1st Presbyterian Church. I will email you directions since the Vinoy may have you come to the back entrance as opposed to the front entrance..

The NARC preparations have begun. Manny and I have been meeting with the NARC staff every Tuesday for the last two weeks. Registration has begun for the conference and we are encouraging you to register if you would like to attend. The early bird rate for you and your staff is available until March 23rd, however, NARC staff has assured me that if you need to make that decision later the rate will be available for you after that date. Just contact me.

In response to Councilman Newton, Ms. Krahl reminded Council members that their governments have an opportunity to have an exhibit or display at the March 23rd events. Our sponsors have that opportunity as well. I have heard back from a few of our member governments. The exhibit can be as simple as you like. You will have a 6-foot space which doesn't have to be staffed unless you would like to have someone there. This is an opportunity for you to promote your community. Councilman Newton said the City of St. Petersburg has community service/Job Corps students that can man the exhibits and if anyone is interested to contact the city. Ms. Krahl said there will be over 20 exhibits.

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

11. Chair's Report

Council members were encouraged to register for both events on March 23rd.

12. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Pumariega thanked John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager and Beth Williams, Senior Accountant for a well done job and thanked the planners for also contributing to the clean audit.

We have had several staff members (Avera Wynne, Brady Smith, Patrick O'Neil, Kevin Biegler) traveling around the state to the DEO Forums because we volunteered to provide the Audience Response System. I would like to thank them for their assistance.

Commissioner Crist: I would like to make a motion at this time, but before I do I want to preface that I think the timing is right. I've been coming to these meetings for over a year now and I've seen a lot of good work, but what I see here is a lot of talent. A lot of people in this room that are doing what they do because they

want to make a difference, and a lot of expertise in a lot of different directions and I know we rely heavily on staff to do a lot for us. But I think that we, without a price tag, could step out and do more working with our staff harnessing on our experience. I would like to make a motion that would put us at the forefront of regional planning authorities in the state of Florida, that would help the Governor, and the state legislatures see the value of this regional planning authority so that we get further support in the future because of what we are able to bring to the table. To that end I would make a motion, Mr. Chairman, that you appoint a task force to assess opportunities to collaborate within the bay area to include, but not be limited to the following: Parks, Airports, Professional Sports Venues, Convention Space, Hotel Rooms, Transportation Opportunities, Jail Space, Justice Intervention Programs, Historical and Heritage Tourism Opportunities, Special Events Venues, Special Events within the jurisdictions, Marketing and Promotion of our area and each of our venues, Recreational Connectivity, Arts Venues, and the list goes on. To do the assessment, what do we have collectively, and then look at what would we do better to harness these resources together? And bring a recommendation back to this board, this body, for further discussion, for further deliberation, further modification so that we can develop an action plan that we can all get behind and endorse. And then bring back to each of our respective governments to try to facilitate change to open the doors of these silos and begin furthering the discussions and implementation of collaboration. Mr. Kersteen seconded the motion.

Chairman Bustle called for discussion.

Councilman Newton: St. Pete/Clearwater already does promotion and they have all of the amenities that we have to offer within the city and the bay area. They are promoting in New York and places like that. They have an inventory of those amenities. We had a presentation on March 1st at the City of St. Petersburg's Council meeting from the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Tourism Development Council. They have a lot of research and the Chambers would be a good resource. Not only do they promote tourism, but they also promote business opportunities. I would like to mention if we do pursue this to keep in mind the Pinellas/St. Petersburg Job Core Center because of the ability to draw in industry to train a potential workforce. The Job Core Center is a Dept. Of Labor. They have six months of JT money, which is six months of salary that you don't have to pay on people you already trained that you can hire for jobs.

Mr. Kersteen: I proposed to Louis Miller in 2006 that we marry together the St. Pete/Clearwater Airport Authority and Tampa International Airport (TIA) and that went no where. I proposed that he forget the north terminal and build that at the Pinellas Airport. According to Commissioner Crist the airport authority feeling has changed.

Commissioner Crist: Bridging the bay, the first branch transit line that could go in could link those two airports. An assessment could be done from an outside third party to determine what is the best use of each side. Those two airports have tremendous bonding authority and also have tremendous revenue streams and

one still has money for development and there are opportunities to partner with the federal government on this. Until we start sitting down and seriously looking at this, Mr. Pumariega, I didn't have an opportunity to talk to you about this. It was one of those things where I just got a brain idea and ran with it. Mr. Chairman, we have the talent around this table and we need to step forth and draw on our own brain cells. Under your leadership this would be a heck of a thing to do over the next 12 months to bring back and show the state what we can do and what they should be doing.

Chairman Bustle: I think this is a great initiative. Commissioner Crist and I have been talking and haven't proceeded beyond talking but this will allow us to move ahead. I'm very excited about this. If there is no further discussion, all in favor say aye. Motion carried unanimously.

I would like to have the motion sent out in an email to Council Members.

Council Member DiPolito presented the City of Clearwater's Proclamation recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council and their significant and excellent contributions for five decades to the quality of life for the citizens of the Tampa Bay region.

Ms. Krahl mentioned that we also received Proclamations from Oldsmar, New Port Richey, Plant City, and we will receive proclamations from Pinellas and Manatee Counties.

Next Meeting: April 9, 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 11:45 a.m.

Larry Bustle

Larry Bustle, Chair

Lori Denman

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary