



# Council Minutes

February 4, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

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## REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island  
Vice Chair, Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County  
Past Chair, Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County  
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs  
Vice Mayor Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin  
Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City  
Council Member Bob Boss, City of Temple Terrace  
Councilman Gene Brown, City of Bradenton  
Commissioner Jonathan Davis, City of Palmetto  
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City  
Commissioner Lorraine Huhn, City of St. Pete Beach  
Councilman Bob Langford, City of New Port Richey  
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County  
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole  
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar  
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
Commissioner Gail Neidinger, City of S. Pasadena  
Council Member Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg  
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson, City of Zephyrhills  
Ms. Pamela Vazques, Ex-Officio, FDEP  
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation

## REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor  
Vice Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo  
Vice Mayor Sam Henderson, City of Gulfport  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Council Member Doreen Hock DiPolito, City of Clearwater  
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park  
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida  
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District

## OTHERS PRESENT

Pam Wright, Project Coordinator, Pasco County  
Holly Greening, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program  
Brian Armstrong, FDEP-Asst. Director

Jeff Harris, Biologist, Pasco County  
Todd Pokrywa, VP Planning, SMR  
Caleb Frimes, Attorney, SMR  
Andy Berry, General Manager, Hillsborough County PUD  
Will Augustine, Sr. Planner, Hillsborough County Planning Commission  
Beth Schinella, Group Manager, Hillsborough County  
Chris Zambito, Planner, Dewberry  
Tricia Neasman, Planning Supervisor, SWFWMD

**STAFF PRESENT**

Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director  
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel  
Ms. Lori Denman, Recording Secretary  
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager  
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner  
Ms. Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information  
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Intergovernmental Service Coordinator  
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 Minning**

The February 4, 2013 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

As you all know on January 5<sup>th</sup> we lost our friend and colleague Bob Kersteen. His death was unexpected and it has been a shock to many of us. Bob was a devoted member of this board for 17 years. He served the council in every capacity with a dedication and determination to make things happen for the betterment of our region. Bob spent his life serving others.

Most of us know about his tenure as a Councilman for the City of St. Petersburg but Bob was also chaired many organizations. Those organizations included:

Six years as the Chair for the Agency on Bay Management  
The Environmental Development Commission  
Pinellas Planning Council  
National League of Cities  
Albert Witted Airport Preservation Society  
Friends of Weedon Island  
And, the Azalea Soccer League.

Bob was also very devoted to his church of over 30 years, Our Savior Lutheran and served as their congregational President. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Judith; his son Craig and daughter Marla; and grandchildren Andre, Kailyn and Braden. I would like to mention that we are planning on honoring Bob's memory at our annual Future of the Region Awards luncheon with a posthumous presentation of The Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership to his family.

Before I ask Commissioner Huhn to perform our Invocation and lead us in the Pledge, I would like to ask that we take a moment to remember our friend, and fellow Council Member, with a moment of silence.

The Invocation was given by Commissioner Lorraine Huhn, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call -- Recording Secretary**  
A quorum was present.

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

**Announcements:** - Chair Minning  
**Announcements**

**Please welcome new representatives:**  
Former State Representative, Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County

Councilman Gene Brown representing the City of Bradenton.

**Please congratulate:**  
Commissioner Woody Brown is now Vice Mayor of Largo

**Future of the Region Awards:**  
Please mark your calendars for the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Future of the Region Awards. Please mark your calendars to attend the event on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. The event will be held at the Hilton St. Petersburg Carillon Park and will begin at 11:45. We have 43 entries this year, which is up from 31 last year. It should be well attended, so once again....Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> is the date. The event is complimentary for Council members but we need you to RSVP to Jessica Lunsford. If you have any questions about the event please contact Wren. I hope you all can attend.

**Presentations: Please move to podium. I will have a script for you on the podium.**  
I am honored today to be able to recognize a couple of members who were unable to attend our annual meeting in December:

**Neil Brickfield**  
We would like to recognize former Pinellas County Commissioner, Neil Brickfield. Neil would you join me at the podium? Neil represented Pinellas County on our Council for the past 4 years. We were fortunate to have his expertise on the Executive/Budget Committee, the Legislative Committee and the Tampa Bay Regional Collaboration Committee. He was also instrumental in the success of our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Thank you very much for all of your support and dedication to the Council and we wish you well in your future endeavors. Mr. Brickfield was presented an Engraved Flash Drive Key Ring.

Mr. Brickfield: Thank you for the flash drive, I will actually use this. I want to tell all of you what a pleasure it was to serve on the Regional Planning Council. I was always impressed by the distance that many of us travel to be here, Larry Bustle from Manatee, Bill Dodson from Plant City, Jack Mariano from New Port Richey and others. I was always delighted by the comments from Council members. You said such nice things about Bob Kersteen. I was on this board for four years and I never came to a meeting where Bob didn't have a full report on Agency on Bay Management. He took a lot of pride and energy in serving and is certainly a

model for someone who makes our community a better place and I was very happy and proud to serve with all of you, and with Bob in particular. Thank you.

**Commissioner Scott Black**

Commissioner Scott Black, would you please join me at the podium? We missed seeing you at the annual meeting but we wanted to thank you for your service as Chair of the Legislative Committee and for serving as Chair of the FRCA Policy Board. We appreciate all you do for the Council. By the way, Scott has been a member of the Council for 13 years. Commissioner Black was presented with an Engraved Flash Drive Key Ring.

**Strawberry Festival:**

For those of you that have been on the Council for awhile, you can see that St. Clements is back with their wonderful Strawberry Shortcake. We have Commissioner Dodson to thank so I'll let him make the introductions.

Commissioner Dodson introduced Roseanne Mellagrino and Carol Greco from the St. Clements "Make your own Strawberry Shortcake."

Forty years ago St. Clements Church was given the opportunity to serve a larger community and so began the Make Your Own Shortcake project. Strawberries have nutritional value and unique fats but most of us eat them because they taste good. We have been honored to have Barbara Caccamesi as our project leader for many years. To carry on her legacy Paul Hendrick and Kevin Nepal will be at the helm with 150 hall workers and 70 Fair workers, daily. Our goal is to serve shortcakes to make people happy, including a lot of returning customers. We hope to see you at our booth so Barbara's words "we can serve, smile, and be happy."

The Strawberry Festival starts February 28<sup>th</sup> and runs through March 10<sup>th</sup>. A brochure was distributed.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Crist  
The December 10, 2012 minutes were approved (Miller/Black).
2. **Budget Committee** – Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Crist  
The Financial Reports for the periods ending 11/30/12 and 12/31/12 were approved (Todd/Miller)
3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Minning

Consent Agenda Item #3.D.2. - Development Order Amendment Report - DRI #216 - University Lakes, Manatee County was pulled for further discussion.

**A. Budget and Contractual  
Office Space Leases**

The staff and Council Members are in the process of finding tenants to occupy the available office space in our building. To date, a lease agreement with Ready For Life, Inc. to occupy 3,232 rentable square feet of space has been secured.

Additional Information: None

Action Recommended: Authorize the Executive Director to sign lease agreement with new tenants including ratification of lease agreement with Ready For Life, Inc.

Staff contact: Manny Pumariega, ext. 17

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

1. IC&R Review by Jurisdiction
  - A. December 2012 report attached

- B. January 2013 report attached
- 2. IC&R Database
  - A. December 2012
  - B. January 2013

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 # 202 - Unnamed Exclusive Golf & Country Club, Manatee County
- 2. DRI # 216 - University Lakes, Manatee County
- 3. DRI # 265 - Lakewood Centre, Manatee County

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports  
 Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29.

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

- DRI # 260 - Wiregrass Ranch/Project Equis (NOPC #3), Pasco County

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

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

- 1. DRI # 166 - Wesley Chapel Lakes, RY 2011-12 ARS, Pasco County
- 2. DRI # 211 - Meadow Pointe, RY 2011-12 ARS, Pasco County

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

**G. DRI Status Report**

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

**H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)**

*Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the 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 # 13-1ESR, City of Largo (proposed)
- 2. DEO # 12-4ESR, City of Largo (proposed)
- 3. DEO # 13-1ESR, City of Indian Rocks Beach (proposed)
- 4. DEO # 13-1ESR, City of Oldsmar (proposed)
- 5. DEO # 13-1ESR, Pinellas County (proposed)
- 6. DEO # 13-1ESR, City of Belleair Beach (proposed)
- 7. DEO # 13-1ESR, Manatee County (proposed)
- 8. DEO # 13-1ESR, City of Clearwater (proposed)
- 9. DEO # 13-1ESR, Pasco County (proposed)
- 10. DEO # 13-1ESR, City of St. Petersburg (proposed)
- 11. DEO # 13-1ESR, Hillsborough County (proposed)

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

**I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)**

The following report(s) are presented for Council action: - None

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda (Todd/Black).

**4. Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)**

Consent Agenda Item #3.D.2. - Development Order Amendment Report - DRI #216 - University Lakes, Manatee County was pulled for further discussion.

Mr. Conn, Legal Counsel, stated that the item was pulled because it involves a Development Order issued relating to University Lakes development in Manatee County. The reason that we asked that it be pulled is that we received some correspondence this morning from the District 1 FDOT office concerning this and we agreed to make that correspondence and comments a part of the record for today. We are still recommending that the Council approve this report. The issue raised by the FDOT correspondence this morning has to do with whether or not the change that Manatee County had approved through a Manatee Development Order had to go through the Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) DRI process. When the Council received the notice of change from Manatee County it was informed by Manatee County that the county did not feel this needed to go through that process, the NOPC process. Council staff reviewed the matter and agreed with the County staff that this change is an administrative change that didn't have to go through the NOPC process. The correspondence that we received from FDOT indicates that they would have preferred that it go through the NOPC process. We are recommending that you approve the report as you have it in your packet. Ultimately the report goes to the Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) and they will have a chance to review our report as well as the Development Order Amendment approved by the county and ultimately DEO. If they feel there is a need for further action they are the ones who are authorized to take it, not this Council. With that I recommend that we approve the report. Motion to approve (Black/Newton).

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

**6. A. Florida Department of Environmental Protection District Reorganization and Resources for Local Governments**

FDEP Assistant Director Brian Armstrong presented the recent changes to the District and opportunities to better assist local municipalities with permitting and compliance assistance.

You may have read in the paper that we made a few changes in our offices at the Southwest District in Tampa. Some of that included reducing our total positions of 36 and three positions we sent to the south as a part of the reorganization. Marion and Sumter County went to the Central District; Sarasota and Desoto County went to the south. Part of that reorganization was to meet our goal to have a smaller, better trained, better paid, more efficient workforce. Some of the things you may not have read in the paper as a result of these reductions is that we reduced our salaries by about \$1.4 million in our office. That makes a lot of people nervous - how are you going to get your work done if you do that? Let me give you an idea of what we did during the period we made these re-organizational changes, from October to December. Seventy percent of the waste cleanup sites were completed from October to December while we were going through these re-organizations with the smaller workforce. Our backlog in permits with the water department was reduced fifty percent, from 22 to 11. All of this was happening during re-organization. What we found is that we've pulled the compliance section out of the permitting section and now, in every district, the compliance section will go through the assistant directors so we can not only get consistency within our office but also within all the other districts on how we can best do compliance and enforcement. We've also begun to do a greater effort in our compliance assistance in training and outreach. One of the biggest

changes we've noticed is that when you mix things up a little bit you get a new set of eyes and fresh ideas on how to address old problems. That was part of some of the efficiencies we noticed right away. Our new organizational structure is available on our web site and you can see how staff is split up. We broke down a lot of silos, the permitting and compliance folks are talking to each other a lot more. We're not writing permits that can't be enforced. We have compliance people assisting and helping develop those permits. Overall we will provide a better experience for you folks when you come to us with questions.

**B. RESTORE Act Funding for Environmental and Economic Restoration of the Gulf Coast**

Several members of the Council have asked about the federal RESTORE Act, passed to direct the administrative and civil penalties from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico's environmental and economic recovery and restoration. Information in the agenda packet explains the three major components of the fund. There are at least two efforts underway that include this region and are aimed at identifying appropriate local and regional projects to meet the criteria for receiving a portion of those funds. One is the Florida Gulf Consortium of the 23 coastal counties operating under the Florida Association of Counties.

1. Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program, provided an overview of the RESTORE Act plan and explained what the three National Estuary Programs in southwest Florida are collaborating on in order to identify appropriate environmental restoration projects.

Several of you have been involved with the effort at the state level or county level and I'm here today to explain what the three National Estuary Programs in southwest Florida have combined to address environmental projects that may be appropriate for a regional plan for the RESTORE Act.

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill damage restoration fines have several different elements. One of them is the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). The purpose of that is to restore injured natural resources and compensate for interim losses. This pot of money goes directly to those areas that have been oiled. Our coast is not eligible for these funds. However, the Clean Water Act (CWA) fines and penalties is to penalize parties that have discharged oil into U.S. waters in violation of the Clean Water Act. Last year Congress approved the RESTORE Act which directs 80% of CWA fines to a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund. The purpose is to help the Gulf recovery environmentally and economically from both Deepwater Horizon *and other impacts*. This is the important piece for our area of the coast. These RESTORE Act fines are eligible to address not just the oil but those environment and economic recovery of all of the coast.

The flow of funds from the Clean Water Act goes to the RESTORE Act. The RESTORE Act then dictated that 20% of it goes to an Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. This amount is to address future oil spills. 80% to the Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, into four major pots: 35% Local Fund; 30% to a Federal Fund, the Gulf Coast Restoration Council; there is also a state fund of 30% to the Florida Consortium of Counties who is developing a plan to allocate those funds. There is also 5% that goes to research and monitoring, specifically to NOAA and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and to a consortium of all the universities through the Florida Institute of Oceanography. Those are the four major pots of funding that the RESTORE Act dictated in the final order.

Particularly to southwest Florida it's important to realize we don't know how much is coming through the RESTORE Act. The parties have not yet finalized agreements to how much that may be. There is a range from \$5 to \$25 billion that is expected and recent information indicates its probably at the upper end of that. This is just for planning purposes in terms of assuming a \$15 billion that comes to the Gulf. That's just an assumption. If 415 billion came to the Gulf and there was a 15 year payout period (estimated) the local fund, which goes directly from the treasury to the counties. That is about \$70 million to each state per year. There is a formula that dictates how much each county may receive. An estimated \$.5 million to \$3 million per county per year for 15 years in southwest Florida, assuming this assumption of \$15 billion per year. That can be used for either environmental or economic recovery. There is also a state fund that is a minimum of \$15 million per year to each state. That also can be used for environmental and economic restoration. In Florida that state fund, and a plan is being developed by a consortium of the 23 Gulf counties in terms of allocation for that fund. That's primarily being determined through the Counties' plan. The other fund is called the Federal Allocation and that is an amount of about \$300 million per year that will be used Gulf-wide. This is not just to the state of Florida. Those funds can be used for environmental projects and there is a federal council that has been identified which consists of the governors of the five states and representatives of about seven federal agencies. That council is developing a comprehensive plan to allocate about \$300 million per year over 15 years. Those are the three major pots and then the research and monitoring element that will go to NOAA and Fish and Wildlife Service.

In August/September last year the elected officials of the Policy Boards of Tampa Bay, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor NEPs approved regional coordination of the comprehensive restoration plan specifically for environmental projects and enhancements and restoration to develop a priority list of environmental projects, address three and ten year projects and costs; discuss ranking criteria; describe how secured funds can be administered and monitored fairly, effectively and efficiently. The ideal is that this would be developed for the federal council allocation consideration.

The Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan that was approved by our policy boards incorporates the Water Management District and NEP coastal counties, stretching from Levy to Collier County. Eligible entities include local governments, agencies, NGOs which address RESTORE environmental priorities. Proposals were due January 7, 2013. We are currently coordinating a Work Group to help develop recommended ranking strategies. Almost 280 projects from 40+ entities have been submitted for incorporation into this regional plan with a total of about \$3 billion requested.

Some of the recommended strategies overall, don't reinvent the wheel. Utilize RESTORE Act prescribed approach and priority criteria. That is what the council will be using, so let's use the same criteria, including the four major goals and actions of the Gulf of Mexico Regional Ecosystem Restoration strategy and the Florida state priorities. These are plans that are already in place and the council will need to utilize.

The RESTORE Act calls for the council giving highest priority to projects that address one or more of the following criteria: The greatest contribution to restoring and protecting natural resources; Large-scale projects and programs; existing Gulf Coast State Comprehensive Plans, and long-term resiliency to the Gulf.

The four major goals of the RESTORE Act are:

1. Restore and Conserve Habitat

2. Restore Water Quality
3. Replenish and Protect Living Coastal and Marine Resources
4. Enhance Community Resilience

All of the projects that we have received address one or more of these goals.

The approval process for this regional plan is that the Joint Boards meet in February/March to review and approve a High, Medium, or Low ranking for each one of those projects, or Not Recommended for funding. The Joint Boards meet again in early April to review and approve numeric ranks within each of the four goals. The Plan will be submitted to the State and Federal Council in April. One of the things we really want to focus on today is that we would like encourage the County Consortium of the 23 counties that are developing their own plan to utilize the environmental projects that are in this regional plan for this part of the state.

This is an incredible opportunity as a result of the oil spill. The NEPs are helping to coordinate this regional effort.

Questions & Comments:

- Councilman Newton: Are these new agencies being developed or are they current, existing agencies?  
 Ms. Greening: Yes. The three National Estuary Programs have been around since the early 1990s. The NEPs are not new entities that are helping to coordinate this.
- Councilman Newton: Do they receive state money?  
 Ms. Greening: Some do, all three receive federal funding and all three receive local government money.
- Councilman Newton: I was wondering if these were new, would the money be in lieu of or in addition to?  
 Ms. Greening: One of the directions from the elected officials on our Policy Board was that the projects being submitted should not replace the existing funded projects. Those should be new environmental restoration and protection projects so you see true recovery of our area. That was a very strong mandate from the elected officials on our Policy Board.
- Councilor Matthews: Is this presentation available on your web site?  
 Ms. Greening: It is available at [www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

2. Ms. Pamela Wright, Program Coordinator for the Pasco County Utilities Division described the proposed Regional Reclaimed Water System Interconnection and Ecosystem Restoration project designed to restore natural systems. This is one of the projects which has been submitted to the Joint Estuary Program's process. Ms. Wright introduced Jeff Harris, Pasco County biologist.

Today I will be presenting a project that we have submitted to the Estuary Program for consideration of the RESTORE Act grant funding. The title of our project is the Regional Reclaimed Water System Interconnection and Ecosystem Restoration. Over the years Tampa Bay has deteriorated from impacts of numerous factors. Of primary concern is nitrogen and availability of fresh water to our region. In an effort to support the restoration of the bay and reverse the impacts to the region's water supply Pasco County continues to support and partner the concept to interconnect the region's reclaimed water systems.

This presentation is going to briefly summarize some of the components that make up the

overall project. Key Points that will be touched on about this project are:

- Restore and protect water quality;
- Restore natural systems;
- Restore ecological productivity;
- Restore wildlife habitat; and
- Restore local groundwater tables.

As Ms. Greening mentioned in her presentation, these all meet the requirements of the RESTORE Act. We are currently in the process of constructing a 500 million gallon reservoir, which is located in Wesley Chapel and we have an existing 100 million gallon reservoir which is located in the central portion of the county at the Land O Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility. One of the components of the regional project is the Central Pasco Natural Systems Restoration and Aquifer Recharge project. This project will help to restore natural systems that have been impacted by groundwater withdrawals in Central Pasco County. There is a definite need for water resource augmentation in the central portion of the county. A map was displayed depicting drawdowns in feet, from 12 feet to 1 foot. The goal of this project is to improve water levels. Ultimately, what we intend to do in this area is restore the natural systems by creating wetlands, infiltration basins and spray irrigation systems. Currently we are in the process of buying property that we have deemed suitable for the project. Most of this property is located in the northern portion of the county. This re-hydration effort will provide sustainable, low cost supply of water and improve hydrologically altered wetlands while enriching critical habitat and increasing recreational opportunities. The price tag of this project is approximately \$40 million.

The second component of the regional project is the Crews Lake Natural Systems Restoration project. Crews Lake is a 700 acre lake in Pasco County that has seen a historical drop in water levels over the past decade resulting from groundwater over pumping. In 2006 Crews Lake was a dry lake bed. Due to the depleted water levels in this lake it has been placed on SWFWMD's priority list for the establishment of minimum flows and levels. Our plan is to restore this lake through natural and constructive wetland systems. A myriad of benefits will be realized with the fruition of this project, such as the re-hydration of the dry lake, improved ecological productivity of the area, improved wildlife habitat, and implemental restoration of local ground water tables. Again, all fitting within the RESTORE Act requirements. The cost of this project is estimated to be \$6.5 million.

Upon completion of these two principal restoration components the county will be better positioned to receive reclaimed water from regional partners through an interconnected regional reclaimed water system. A map was displayed of proposed reclaimed water lines that will come up from Hillsborough and Pinellas Counties. This interconnect will facilitate the diversion of reclaimed water and its affiliated and pollutant loads from Tampa Bay to Pasco County. This reclaimed water in turn will help the recovery and enhance impacted fresh water to the ecosystems. It will also provide for a more sustainable water supply for the region and maximize the beneficial use of the resource. Based on the feasibility studies and analysis that have been performed over the years, the estimated cost of this project is approximately \$760 million.

Thank you for allowing me to provide to you the overview of this very important regional project that will have a significant impact on the ecosystem restoration and conservation of not only Tampa Bay but the tri-county region as a whole.

Questions & Comments:

- Ms. Todd: I know years ago that Pinellas County set up a reclaimed water system and assessed fees, utilization, and came up with prioritizations to the distribution of the reclaimed water. One of the things we discovered was that there's never enough reclaimed water even for the people in the area. I'm curious to know to what extent of this huge figure of \$750 million will the county be participating? I hope you're not. It's a great project, but I hope you're not just counting on a grant. Have you got a system in place for that? Is there an agreement with all these counties?
- Ms. Wright: The two projects, Central Pasco and Crews Lake - Central Pasco we are already in the process of working on that project with cooperative funding from the Water Management District. Crews Lake is similar. We're working on that, doing feasibility studies, we have applied for cooperative funding for fiscal year 2014 for that project. There is a match there from the county on both of those projects. The regional project is currently a concept. There has been analysis done, the latest one was finalized December 2011. Greevey and Hansen did an analysis called the Western Bay Area Regional Reclaimed Water Interconnect. Basically it brings all the wet weather reclaimed water, all the excess reclaimed water up from Pinellas and Hillsborough to Pasco. Before we can get to that project Pasco County has to have the ability to reuse that water beneficially, and that is why we are doing the Central Pasco project and the Crews Lake project first, so that we have the capability of accepting that excess reclaimed water from Hillsborough and Pinellas.
- Councilwoman Wilkeson: Can you talk a little about the \$6.5 million re-hydration? Would 100% of that effort come from this reclaimed water or are there some other methods by diverting streams?
- Ms. Wright: No, 100% is the reclaimed water.
- Councilman Newton: You were showing a 2008 photo of Crews Lake. I'm curious as to what a 2011 and 2012 photo would look like.
- Ms. Wright: It looks pretty much the same. Even with all the rain we got. This is a 700 acre lake, and that's a pretty large area.
- Mr. Harris: Even after Tropical Storm Debby, which had historic rainfall totals, and even after all the flooding that we experienced in Pasco County, the level of the lake still did not achieve what was the draft level that the Water Management District had worked on historically. While tropical storms typically do not make a restoration project, even with all that rain we had it still didn't meet the normal level. And with the geology of the area we don't expect that water to remain in the lake beyond spring.
- Councilman Newton: The Clam Bayou restoration in St. Pete - a lot of that was sediment. The mangroves and grass allowed sediment waste to dump into the water as well as nitrogen. You spoke about over pumping. You pump this water in and then you pump it back out - is that the plan?
- Mr. Harris: That pumping was for water production for the region. Typically water now pumps that water from the Cypress Creek well field, and the Cross Bar Ranch well fields, so that draw down from water

production is delivered for the entire region, the entire tri-county region. That historical over pumping is what has contributed to that massive draw down that we've experienced in Pasco County. With that draw down we've seen lakes and wetlands and other aquatic natural features in the county be depleted to such a detriment that many of those aquatic features are not expected to recover, even with cutbacks in water production. There has to be some restoration effort to get those aquatic systems back to where they should be. What we are looking at doing is, at least initially using Pasco County's surplus reclaimed water to re-hydrate some of those wetlands to bring that ecological function back. The second component to this is to interconnect with our neighbors to the south so they can lessen their impact to Tampa Bay in the form of nitrogen which they are delivering in their excess reclaimed water, and beneficially reuse that water by sending it back up to Pasco County to recover some of those natural systems.

Councilman Newton:

You are already putting your excess in there so what about all this other reclaimed water. Where will you put that if you are already pumping your excess?

Ms. Wright:

We're not pumping it yet. These are projects that we are working on to get the capacity to do that.

Councilwoman Mulhern:

We had a lot of discussion about this in Hillsborough and Tampa a few years ago about using our reclaimed water to recharge aqua-ground in Pasco County/Polk County and it didn't work out. One of the questions that always came up from the environmentalists was whether that reclaimed water being put back into the aquifer is clean enough to go back in there. Does our reclaimed water process get the water to the point where we can recharge the groundwater?

Ms. Wright:

This isn't the first time this has been done. There are projects all over Florida that use reclaimed water to restore natural systems.

Mr. Harris:

Yes. Pasco County doesn't have a surface water discharge that allows us the flexibility of managing that resource as easy as it is for some of our neighbors that have a surface water discharge. What we do right now is deliver that reclaimed water to irrigation customers around the county. The surplus we put in what we call rapid infiltration basins which ultimately re-hydrates the aquifers depending on the geology of the area. That water is cleansed through biological processes through the soil strata so those pollutants are removed in that form. As it is right now we deliver millions and millions of gallons of reclaimed water to irrigation demand all around the county. That pollutant load is naturally biologically filtering cleansed as it goes down through the soil strata. There are several biological processes that help remove these pollutants. That's why these wetland treatment systems are so effective because nature has a great way of removing these pollutants and cleaning that water naturally, without the use of chemicals and some of these other more costly options.

Councilwoman Mulhern:

Can you give me a couple examples of places that are doing this?

Mr. Harris:

The Wakodahatchee Wetlands in Palm Beach County, the Iron Bridge or Christmas in Orlando, Concert II and others around the state. As Ms. Greening mentioned in her presentation about not recreating the wheel, this wouldn't be the first. We're learning as much as we can

from some of these other projects so we can make our project ultimately as successful as it can be.

Councilwoman Mulhern: Pasco County and your submission of this, your request for RESTORE Act funds, how much are you asking for?

Ms. Wright: The total project cost is \$808 million. Keep in mind that we have already submitted the two components for funding from the Water Management District. If the project is approved then we would look at the money we spent already, how much money we have left from our funding.

Mr. Harris: I can't think of a more regionally important project that will positively impacting bay water quality, and recovering the natural systems that have been impacted by water production in Pasco County. We can do both of those things with this project. Not only that, but we can help our neighbors to the south help manage their reclaimed water flows by limiting that nutrient discharge to the bay and helping them as a management option to deliver their excess to Pasco County where we can do the most benefit with that resource.

Councilwoman Mulhern: Does that \$808 million include the entire pipeline both from Pinellas and Hillsborough?

Ms. Wright: The pipeline from Pinellas and Hillsborough is the largest part dollar-wise at \$750 million.

Commissioner Long: I want to follow up on Ms. Todd's comments. The monies that are being used to pay for this project, am I correct that they are being managed by the Water Management District? The Southwest Water Management District (SWFWMD)?

Ms. Wright: Yes. We get 50% funding from them and the county matches the other 50%.

Commissioner Long: If it's being managed by the SWFWMD by 50% and then the rest of the money comes from all of the counties in the region?

Ms. Wright: For the \$760 million portion, once we take on that project and we all agree to the terms, all three counties, or cities that are going to be involved, we will decide on how we divi up the funds then. We would look to everybody to participate financially unless we can get this RESTORE Act money. If we can get that money then we don't have to worry about it.

Commissioner Long: Do you have a time frame for how all of this is going to follow up, and what's the process for you to be engaging with all of the rest of the counties?

Ms. Wright: The time frame, it's going to be a good five years before we even get the two components within the county done.

Mr. Harris: The only thing we have done right now is just the feasibility. Can we do this? Is there a permitting pathway? Is there a technical way for us to get this done? We have partnered with the Water Management District, we had some preliminary conversations with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), we have identified permitting pathways and there is a technical pathway for us to get here. Central Pasco we're looking to get done within 5-6 years, depending on how we phase that project. Crews Lake is similar, depending on availability of funding. Those things we need to get done since Pasco County doesn't have a surface water discharge permit. We have to get those options ready to go before we start taking surplus water from anybody. The time line is 5-6 years, but the availability of funds could

certainly impact that time line.

Ms. Wright: I have personally talked to members of the other utilities and they are aware of the submission. I believe that our county administrator will be speaking with the leaders of the other counties and cities that are going to be involved in the project.

Councilor Matthews: You used the word “reclaimed water” and you used “surface water” and the difference of those two would be?

Mr. Harris: When I mention surface water I’m talking about lakes, rivers, streams. Reclaimed water is the wastewater from the wastewater treatment facility that we process that ultimately becomes for us right now, irrigation for customers around Pasco County.

Councilor Matthews: The information as I know it is in Pinellas County there is a shortage of reclaimed water so what is going to change that project? There are areas that don’t have reclaimed water because there’s not enough. I know from my own use of reclaimed water as a business that the limitations are there depending on the time of the year so how is this going to plug into your program?

Ms. Wright: It would be wet weather disposal. So when it’s raining and we have tropical storms and our neighbors from the south cannot get rid of their reclaimed water, they will send it up to Pasco County.

Councilor Matthews: So it is a system that changes with weather and the availability of the water flow? And you won’t store it in the reservoir?

Ms. Wright: The reservoir that we’re building is really for storage of Pasco County’s excess reclaimed water. The water coming up from Pinellas and Hillsborough and our southern neighbors is going to be put into the natural systems areas.

Councilor Matthews: So we would be feeding something like the 700 acre lake?

Ms. Wright: Possibly.

Mr. Harris: Re-hydrating the aquifer. In our partnering with the Estuary Program, take all those flows that are now being delivered to the bay, impacting bay water quality, and bring them up to Pasco County where originally that water was pumped out of the ground to begin with, and put that water back to where it came from so we can minimize and recover some of those natural features.

Ms. Wright: It would reduce the nutrient loading to the bay from Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties.

Mr. Nunez: All of these restoration programs and funding, etc. - is there a prevention program?

Mr. Harris: No sir, not so long as Tampa Bay Water keeps producing water for the region. Tampa Bay Water has done a tremendous job diversifying our water supply and making it drought resistant. The primary source of all of our water are consolidated well fields. The majority of the water that is being delivered to the region comes out of the ground from Pasco County. While they have made great strides in reducing the amount of water they are pulling from the ground, they’re still pulling roughly 16 million gallons a day out of Cross Bar Ranch and another 12-15 million gallons a day from Cypress Creek. As long as they are taking that amount of water out of the ground, there are going to be some impacts. Tampa Bay Water went into a study probably a decade

ago that evaluated all of these natural systems that were not expected to recover with simply a reduction in production. Those are the wetlands and lakes that were are trying to recover. Those that are not expected to recover with just a drawback. As long as they pump water from the ground there are going to be impacts to natural systems. They are being minimized now because Tampa Bay Water does such a great job diversifying the water supply, but they are still there. Some of those features are not going to recover.

Commissioner Mariano:

I wanted this item to come up ahead of time. This project hasn't been presented to the county commissioners yet. After sitting on the RESTORE Act committee representing our county commission I listened to a presentation from Tetra Tech that talked about different things regionally and what we are up against. I want you to keep an open mind if you see the program. An opportunity could be here and it could be a once in a lifetime thing. The money from the RESTORE Act, we're not just looking at a pot of money that's coming to Florida, we're looking at money that's for the entire Gulf region. The people from Alabama, Louisiana are way ahead of the game. Part of this RESTORE Act is every group, every county - we're at 23 counties and we are the only ones who do it this way, we have to set up a citizens committee that can be all over the region, up and down the coast. So every citizen's group has got to be formed to decide what things are going to be recognized. That will be coming to your county. Part of the money that could be here, it's not a matter of does one county get it? Another county get it? They're going to look for projects that are going to be regionally beneficial across the way. I will tell you when I heard the price tag I choked. I knew the reclaimed line we were doing for \$46 million, and the Crews Lake project for \$6 million are great projects. When I first got on the Commission we were talking about the Howard Curan Plan. I think it dumps between 40-50 million gallons of water a day into Tampa Bay. There's a project from eight years ago from SWFWMD that all that water that's being dumped into the bay isn't helping the nitrogen load in the bay. There was a project that Pasco and Hillsborough were working on with the City of Tampa where we were trying to do something together and I think Polk County might have been involved and frankly I don't care how we get it cleaned up, but if we can help the bay by getting that 40-50 million gallons a day that is going in to the bay out of the bay and hydrate where the water comes in. They heard about Cross Bar Ranch, those who may not know this, Pinellas County owns that land. They own the land. Years ago they said we need to protect our resources. They own there and they own down at Cypress Creek. The Tampa Bay Water thing is a great credit to this region coming together and putting a plan down on how we are going to take care of everyone's water needs. Don't think of this project as who is going to pay what. Look at it as, this is going to be a huge company that's going to pay a huge fine and we will be competing nationwide. I would encourage you to study this RESTORE Act. I would also encourage you to study this plan. I wish the presentation had a picture of that lake before because

everything that is now brown used to be water. The water was 12-14 feet deep. Pasco County's water was being drawn down 130 million gallons a day, it's been down as low as 78 gallons, and now it's about 90 gallons a day. We are in better shape than what we were. The pipeline connection would allow us to use our old water and benefit all of us.

Commissioner Crist:

I think when we heard the price tag it put up a lot of red flags. I understand that you're looking for the federal funding and hopefully if it comes through you are able to do what it is you want to do, but if it doesn't the excess water that is going into the bay - the private sector will go where there's opportunity. Right now we're restricting the opportunity of their use of the reuse water. I know I live in the City of Tampa in the north end (New Tampa). I wanted to put a tank under my driveway so I can have reclaimed water brought up and put in on a monthly basis so I could run my sprinkler system. Permitting and zoning wouldn't allow me to do that. Sometimes if we just change our thinking, the private sector will do it for us. A lot of that water I would imagine could be used if it was trucked out to available opportunities where people want to put in their own vault systems.

Ms. Wright:

That is a portion of this regional interconnect, bringing a pipe up into New Tampa. That has been discussed a lot. Just because I showed you the one pipeline, that is the one that came out of the Study, we are also thinking of a couple of other interconnects. One out on the east side of the county closer to New Tampa, and one in the southern portion of the county. There would actually be three interconnects. The one that has actually been studied is the route that I showed you. I can share that Study with you if you would like to see it.

Councilwoman Mulhern:

I think this needs to be clarified. Your project is one of 280. Has the Joint Policy Boards actually vetted any projects yet? So what we are hearing is an example of those 280 projects. It's a great project and we do dump all that waste water into the bay and we need to clean it up. I think it's a great project and I hope you are talking to our departments. Tampa could benefit well from this.

Commissioner Mariano:

Keep in mind, as a convener of the region, this is something that's going to be coming up. This money is going to be out there and if we are going to do something like this, or other restoration projects, I just wanted to let you know about this big project so you can be aware. We will be reaching out to others if there is resistance. I just wanted all of us in the room to be aware.

Chair Minning:

Let me follow up and propose to create an ad hoc committee of the Council to assist our cities and counties in the process of identifying and submitting projects for funding within the State and the Oil Spill Impact Restoration Allocation portions of the RESTORE Act. The Council has several tools and resources that would be of benefit in this process, and given the rather limited list of activities which are eligible for funding, a regional economic and/or environmental benefits analysis will be important in obtaining funding. I would like to

propose the following Council members to serve on this ad hoc committee:

Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County  
Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County  
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Council Member Doreen Hock DiPolito, City of Clearwater  
Mayor Bob Minning, Chair, City of Treasure Island

Motion to approve ad hoc committee members (Long/Mulhern)

Motion to add Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
(Mariano/Matthews)

**C. Tampa Bay Regional Collaboration Committee (TBRCC) *Draft Report* - Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director**

If you go to our web site [www.tbrpc/tbrcc](http://www.tbrpc/tbrcc), all of the reports are there as well as all of the presentations that have lead up to this report. There are 20 subject matter experts for specific topics such as the airports, regional transportation, area branding and amateur sports, marketing and developing. Those four had individual meetings where the Collaboration Committee met and saw three or four presentations about the issues. I have my acronym TEAM - Together Everyone Achieves More - and we threaded that throughout the Report. The idea is that if we work together as opposed to competing, sometimes we can finish that bridge that is being built. I will present the highlights that are in the report to save time.

We separated the concepts/recommendations into two types. Regional are those that we should promote to the region to all work together and promote the concept, collaboratively. That is represented by the dove in the report. Regional for the TBRPC to get into specific activities of is represented by an arrow bullet.

Airports:

Regional: Promote coordinated marketing. Each airport should have a consistent regional message in all its in-house marketing. Improved connectivity. Support TBARTA and the MPOs and the Transit Authorities develop their plans, and be sure that you look outside your box to the other assets such as, Pinellas County looking at the airport and Tampa is bringing in a lot of tourists, and how do you connect them to the beaches?

Seaports:

Regional: Promote collaboration between Port Manatee, Port of Tampa, and Port of St. Petersburg. Port of St. Petersburg doesn't have much activity right now, but perhaps in the future they can have boutique cruises, or be a port destination for water taxis.

For TBRPC: Support regional seaports' efforts to engage the cruise industry to explore opportunities and identify barriers to expansion. Perhaps have a presentation

from the cruise industry so they can tell our region what the barriers are for them to become interested in our region as a destination.

Transportation Planning:

Regional: Promote TBARTA and West Central Florida Metropolitan Planning Organization's Chairs Coordinating Committee (MPO CCC) collaboration on "one plan" that is recognizable as the region's transportation blueprint. Currently TBARTA has a mandated Master Plan, each of the MPOs created a Long Range Transportation Plan that gets put together as the MPO CCC's Regional Plan. They are not exactly the same plan. We need to figure out a way to work together and have one plan. Along with that there is a High Priority Transportation Initiatives list which has ten projects and try to get everyone to look at key projects so we can all be on the same page.

Right now the region has a lot of leadership in Tallahassee so now is a good time to have projects that we want to promote and seize the opportunity and work with our Tallahassee leadership to try to bring some of those projects to the region because a lot of the regional projects are state projects. They aren't just regional.

Support efforts to revamp the transportation revenue structure. As cars become more fuel efficient, gasoline consumption will go down as cars go from 20 MPH to 40 MPH we will use less gas to go further. The fuel tax isn't a percentage, its an amount per gallon so that revenue will shrink and the transportation revenue structure is in danger.

For TBRPC: One of the things the RPC can do is support the Priorities List and take a position on the revenue enhancement concept such as, VMT tax, diesel fuel tax increase, and some local municipal option taxes.

Health Insurance:

We were thinking about the consumers of the RPC and the local governments and try to figure out a way to do some cost containment. The idea would be for the RPC to conduct a survey of the local governments and similar agencies like the Estuary Program, and see if there is room for a consortium to reduce those costs, pool our resources and get lower rates. A couple of the beach communities are already doing that. Several people have mentioned the League of Cities. They have some insurance but it isn't a pool. They just go out and broker it. We will do a survey.

Area Branding:

To sell the destination. We heard that from the airports, the sports folks, the tourism people. In doing that we need to work on a regional identity. All of the folks mentioned spend a lot of money to market into a lot of areas, but they don't necessarily know where St. Pete/Clearwater is geographically. They may not necessarily know where Tampa is either, but we need to figure out a way to have people understand that when they hear about Anna Maria Island or Dade City, that they are a part of the greater Tampa Bay region, perhaps with a tag line - *Historic Dade City: A Tampa Bay Community*. Geography is critical so whatever the tag line, people need to have an idea of where the city is. Along those lines, all the money and resources that are being put together from the CVBs, the Sports Commissions, and the Airport marketing, perhaps we need to have a forum to be held at the beginning of their program year, or before they finalize their budgets. That's something the RPC can do as the convener of the

region. There is room for collaboration. Maybe everybody has decided to target the same market such as Chicago. If you develop a regional brand, why spend all that money in Chicago when you can spend some in New York as well. That would be a TEAM building exercise.

Amateur Sports:

This is one that is an amazingly fast growing business or product niche. A lot of communities are going after amateur sports. It has that 10% growth rate per year and people are competing for events. Different parts of our region are developing niches that we can work together and collaborate on. Manatee County has IMG, they have tennis and rowing. Pasco County has lacrosse and softball. We have all these different things going on and one of the things we have to be able to do is match up facilities. If everybody builds soccer fields, then all we have are soccer fields. That's not good. We need to make sure we have softball fields, soccer fields, rowing facilities. It wouldn't make sense for everybody to build a world class rowing facility since Manatee County already has that. What we don't have is if you built a large facility for rowing, or for lacrosse, you may not have the bed stock in your county to service that area. We need to coordinate bed stock development locations, as well as availability. Amateur sports is a good way to fill beds when its off season, June-July-August-September. During those times of the year we tend to have lower occupancy and the children are out of school and are traveling playing sports. Parents travel with their kids and they spend a lot of money.

For the RPCs, explore the idea and see if there is support from the different CVBs within the region to work together on some type of collaboration plan to get an idea of our facility inventory, what are we planning to build in the future, etc. and see if we can coordinate that. We were thinking about shopping that around with the counties and see if that's something they would want to pitch in and support or if the RPC wants to move forward and contact Sports of Florida, the Florida Sports Foundation.

Councilwoman Wilkeson: Last week the Speaker of the House, Will Weatherford, visited the Zephyrhills Municipal Airport. Recently FDOT reported that the Airport has an economic impact to our region of about \$26 million a year. About \$8 million of that amount is Skydive City. Region leaders and certainly the city leaders understand that there needs to be a much bigger approach to improving the airport and making it a real driver for jobs and for industry. A couple of things we talked about was the fact that currently underway is the restoration of runway 422, which aligns with MacDill AFB. In order to attract large cargo planes like Amazon or some of those others, we need to extend one of our runways which runs north/south, which is runway 18 from 5,000 linear feet to 6,500 linear feet. My question is, if you decide to have a consortium of some sort, we really are up on the idea of extending 56 and also that we want to position Zephyrhills as an ideal location for an inland airport connected to the Port of Tampa.

Mr. Wynne: The runway extension, I don't know if that's in our CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development) Plan or not. That would be something that would fall under economic development and we can see about putting that in the CEDS Plan.

Councilwoman Wilkeson: The city just purchased all the land south of that to Chancy Road and the Bypass. That's not part of our normal funding and we are looking for outside funding for something like that.

Motion to approve the *Draft* Report. (Wilkeson/Mulhern). The Report is available on-line and it was also attached to the agenda.

Presentations provided at Council meetings can be found at:  
[www.tbrpc.org/council\\_members/council\\_presentations.shtml](http://www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations.shtml)

#### 7. Council Members' Comments

- Councilman Newton: I know we talked about this in the Legislative Committee meeting but I would make a motion, but first of all I want to get the report to Manny about the joint HART/PSTA Meeting which was an unfunded mandate by the legislature. I am on that committee. We have a consultant's report, we have the letters from two different transit agencies as a way to try to help promote mass transit in the region. I won't probably make a motion until we provide you with the consultant's report and recommendation, but we should have a position on that. It's been all over the media and there's nothing at all that came from this body and I think that's not good, especially when that report is going to Tallahassee. I can get that report to Manny or Wren and you can look it at. Also, TBARTA is forming a letter and at our board meeting they remain in the legislation to help facilitate this. They couldn't even get TBARTA's in the same envelope so they got to buy a stamp and send their own. This is how crazy this is. But as a regional planning organization I think that we definitely need to weigh on mass transit in the region.
- Commissioner Long: To follow up, the county commission in Pinellas will be taking up that issue. It would be nice if this group had some information that they can bring to us.
- Chair Minning: How about if we do a reconvene, Commissioner Bustle, of our Collaboration Committee to come up with a position to recommend to the Council on transportation? Would that be a good forum?
- Commissioner Bustle: I'm not sure. There's a lot of issues and I'm not sure we have the expertise and the information to deal with. I'll talk it over with Manny and see if we want to do this or not. TBARTA has dealt with this.
- Chair Minning: I think everyone has a flavor for what's being asked here. Let's do a consensus. Do you think that it is within the purview and is something that the TBRPC should render an opinion on? Council agreed, with one opposition (Boss). I think we have a reasonable support for the Council to engage in that activity.
- Commissioner Long: I want to be clear that what we are going to be voting on is to put this issue on the ballot in November of 2014. Maybe that is some clarification for the rest of the members here about what he might be recommending and surely I can't imagine why you wouldn't think it wouldn't be OK to have it on the ballot. There's a lot of time between now and then for the various committees that deal with transportation issues within the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.
- Councilman Newton: That's two different things. What I was referring to was the study we just did. Commissioner Long is with PSTA also and came in on the final meeting, the joint meeting with HART in Tampa. I'm talking about that report. We have two things going on. The PSTA voted and supported, and are asking the county commission to place something on the ballot for November 2014 as a tax to fund a more robust transit system. I was talking about the consultant

study where there was a legislative mandate from Latvala and others on feasibility and can we get a process by which to move mass transit forward between regions. If you want to suggest getting the CEOs in and give a presentation or we can get the consultant to look at it. We can also get what TBARTA is recommending. It's just their recommendation as to what was done so far.

Chair Minning: I think we have support for having staff look into that and come back with a recommendation for how we can move forward.

Councilman Newton: All I'm saying is that a lot of these things are within the region like mass transit and if you would like, you have people on those committees we can do reports under Council Comments and that way you can be kept abreast on what's happening. That way you will have a feel for what is going on. We just came up with the Collaboration Committee to send something to Tallahassee but I think if we have something going to Tallahassee too with regional planning involved also and not just let it go up there with letters from HART, PSTA, and TBARTA but not from TBRPC.

## 8. Program Reports

### A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) – Chair, Mayor Minning

As you know, Bob Kersteen was the Chair of the ABM and I have been Vice Chair for a number of years. I will be moving in to the Chair position of the ABM and Vice Mayor Woody Brown will be the Vice Chair.

The full Agency met on Thursday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda were several interesting items.

- Ms. Erin Rasnake, Technical Services Manager for the FDEP Southwest District, gave an overview of the recently reorganized District operation.
- Ms. Beverly Birkitt, of Birkett Environmental Services, provided an overview of wetland mitigation banking and presented the Tampa Bay Mitigation Bank. This 161 acre site located in southwestern Hillsborough County is being restored to a diversity of upland, estuarine and aquatic habitats after several decades in agricultural use.
- Mr. Joseph Quinn, SWFWMD Land Management Manager, provided an update on the District's Surplus Lands Assessment process. Of the 261,000 acres solely owned and managed by the District within its 16 counties, about 1,281 acres (0.05%) have been identified for surplus, meaning that the tracts will be transferred to other governmental entities or sold on the open market.

One or more of the Agency's committees will meet on February 14<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome to attend.

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

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

### D. Emergency Management - No Report

### E. Legislative Committee - Commissioner Black

In your folder we have provided the FRCA Summary of recent legislative committee meetings, along with a bill tracking report.

A few bills of interest are as follow:

**House Bill 319 (Ray)** - The bill has two subcommittee and one committee reference. There is no related bill.

Defines "mobility plan" to mean an integrated land use and transportation plan adopted into the comprehensive plan which promotes compact, mixed-use development served by a multimodal transportation system that includes transit and rail service in addition to roads, pedestrian and bicycle facilities;

Provides that projects may not be delayed or prohibited by local government due to failure of an adopted level of service or inconsistency with the local government's mobility plan if the developer has provided full payment for a project's measurable transportation impacts;

Requires calculation of proportionate share payments to be based only on capital improvements necessary to mitigate the project's impacts;

Provides that projects to relieve transportation deficiencies may be located within or outside the designated deficiency area and mass transit improvements may extend beyond a deficiency area.

**House Bill 321 (LaRosa)** The bill has two subcommittee and one committee reference. There is no related bill.

Until July 1, 2016, local governments are prohibited from applying transportation or school concurrency, or proportionate-share contributions or construction for new development unless authorized by two-third vote of the local government; this prohibition does not apply to proportionate-share assessments on existing development prior to July 1, 2013;

Prohibits new or existing impacts fees through July 1, 2016 unless authorized by two-third vote of the local government; this prohibition does not apply to impact fees assessed for transportation impacts prior to July 1, 2013.

The Legislative Committee met this morning and voted in support of the following Legislative issues:

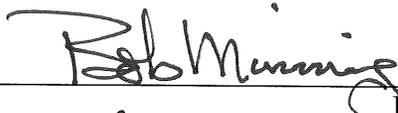
- To seek Legislative support for restoration of RPC funding in the amount of \$2.5 million.
- The MPO's Advisory Council's top six revenue options for transportation as follows:
  1. Index all fuel taxes not county indexed.
  2. One cent municipal sales tax.
  3. Five cent local diesel tax.
  4. Return motor vehicle license, registration and titling fee increases to the State Transportation Trust Fund.
  5. Two cent fuel tax increase per year for 5 years for a total of 10 cents indexed for inflation.
  6. Vehicle miles traveled study.
- The third issue is the West Central Florida MPO/TPO proposed ranked list of High Priority Major Transportation Initiatives.

The Legislative Committee recommends that the Council adopt the 2013 Legislative Issues for distribution and advocacy during the 2013 legislative session.

Motion of approve the 2013 Legislative Issues (Black/Miller).

- 7. **Council Member Comments** - None
- F. **Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)** - No Report
- G. **Economic Development** - No Report
- H. **Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)** - No Report
- 9. **Other Council Reports** - None
- 10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report** – Chair Minning - No Report
- 11. **Chair’s Report** - None
- 12. **Executive Director’s Report**  
In your Council folders you will find the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Activity Report for January.

Adjournment: 11:55 a.m.

  
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Bob Minning, Chair

  
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Lori Denman, Recording Secretary