



# Council Minutes

[www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org)

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August 12, 2013  
10:00 a.m.

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## REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island, Chair  
Mr. Andy Nunez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee, Vice Chair  
Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County, Sec./Treasurer  
Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County, Past Chair  
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs  
Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin  
Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City  
Councilman Gene Brown, City of Bradenton  
Vice Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo  
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City  
Council Member Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport  
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County  
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County  
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole  
Vice Mayor Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar  
Vice Mayor Gail Neidinger, City of South Pasadena  
Councilman Wengay Newton, City of St. Petersburg  
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee  
Councilwoman Jodi Wilkeson, City of Zephyrhills  
Mr. Brian Armstrong, Ex-officio, FDEP  
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-officio, FDOT  
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

## REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor  
Council Member Bob Boss, City of Temple Terrace  
Councilman Chopper Davis, City of New Port Richey  
Commissioner Jonathan Davis, City of Palmetto  
Council Member Doreen DiPolito  
Vice Mayor Lorraine Huhn, City of St. Pete Beach  
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa  
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park  
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial

## OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Ash, EPCHC  
Bob Krasowski, Public Interest  
Kathleen Thompson, Manatee County Bldg.  
Cyndi Targsam, Planning VP, Fl. Design Consultants  
Will Augustine, Sr. Planner, Hillsborough Co. Planning Commission  
Sue Murphy, President, P&M Consulting  
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD

**STAFF PRESENT**

Manny Pumariaga, Executive Director  
Don Conn, Legal Counsel  
Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner  
Lori Denman, Recording Secretary  
Marshall Flynn, IT Director  
John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager  
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information  
John Meyer, Principal Planner  
Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner  
Brady Smith, Senior Planner  
Avera Wynne, Planning Director

**Call to Order** – Chair Minning

The August 12, 2013 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

The invocation was given by Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**Roll Call** – Recording Secretary

A quorum was present.

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

**Announcements:**

Councilor Bob Matthews was thanked for the morning refreshments.

**New Member:**

Councilman Michael Fridovich is now going to represent Gulfport on the Council. He attended our last meeting in June.

Brian Armstrong was introduced as the new representative for FDEP.

**Folder Items:**

- **Mitigation Workshops**  
The Florida Division of Emergency Management will be hosting 11 Mitigation Workshops throughout the state. The purpose is to give an opportunity to present and discuss the State Mitigation Plan, Local Mitigation Strategies, Risk and Vulnerability assessments, Mitigation funding, changes in mitigation initiatives and the flood insurance program. The Tampa Bay “Get Your Mitigation On” Workshop will be held October 22, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at our facility. Please save the date and spread the word. A flyer is located in your folder.

There are major changes coming to the flood insurance program. The beach communities are very concerned about the new flood mitigation program. Treasure Island will be holding a workshop on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m., at City Hall. It is the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Renewal Act 2012 which potentially has some dramatic impact on pre 1974 homes and the implications are very severe for beach properties. October 22<sup>nd</sup> will be a little after the fact because the majority of these provisions have either kicked in July of last year or October 1<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Commissioner Mariano: Recently the flood insurance folks came before the Pasco County Commission to tell us what the increase is going to be and the rate they are looking at is about a 20% increase. About a month later we had FEMA come before us and they told us the rates were going to go up about 20%. After they provided their presentation they said since we were doing certain things the right way that we would get a reduction of about 20%. Even if you are doing the right things you aren't going to get the help that you thought and it may just go stronger and stronger. Historically, since 1987, the state of Florida has paid in to the National Flood Insurance Program \$7.2 billion. We've only had claims of \$2.3 billion. When Katrina came in, it wiped out that \$4.3 billion extra that we paid in so our rates should have been 1/3 of what they were. Florida is getting hammered.

Chair Minning: And will get hammered. Any change in property that takes place goes to an actuary rate, a risk based on the 100 year flood rate. Anyone who sells a home, the new homeowners will not be grand-fathered, they will pay a full actuarial rate and that could be as much as 10 times more than what they are paying now. A \$2,500 flood insurance program could go for over \$20,000. And that will kick in immediately for people who sell their homes. For what Commissioner Mariano was talking about, come next year 2014, the maps will be out and those who were grand-fathered and chose to stay in their homes, there will be about a 20% per year escalation until the full actuarial rate is reached. Your mortgage payment will go up another couple thousand a month because of this impact. You can go to the FEMA website, Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Renewal Act and you can also go to the National Realtor Association website and look for the flood insurance. This is not just Florida, it's nationwide. But Florida, and Pinellas County, probably has the most densely and the most impact – the third nationwide. The potential for more impact is there.

- **Regional Planning Council's Brochure and Program Matrix**  
To assist in continuing to educate our regions and legislators on the benefits of Regional Planning Councils, FRCA has produced a brochure with a consolidated Program Matrix for all 11 RPCs. A copy of the new brochure is located in your folders.

**1. Approval of Minutes - Secretary/Treasurer Crist**

The June 10, 2013 minutes were approved. (J. Miller/Long)

**2. Budget Committee - Secretary/Treasurer Crist**

A. Highlights of the Agencywide Revenue & Expenditure Report for the period ending May 31, 2013 are as follows:

- The budget column reflects the updated mid-year amendment approved at the May Council meeting.
- Fees/Contracts – includes \$39,000 for the Disaster Planning Guide.
- Tenant rents reflect the addition of the two new tenants for most of May.

Mr. Pumariega stated that this Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, we will have three tenants occupying about 15,000 sq. ft. of space. Two of the tenants have five year leases, with

three, 3 year options. The larger tenant has a seven year lease, with three 4 year options. Most of the inspections will take place today on the third tenant's space and they are expected to move in on Wednesday. Chair Minning and Mr. Pumariega thanked staff for all their assistance above and beyond their regular duties.

The Financial Report for the period ending 5/31/13 was approved (Wilkeson/J. Miller)

- B. Highlights of the Agencywide Revenue & Expenditure report for the period ending June 30, 2013 are as follows:
- Federal grants revenue of approximately \$166,000, drawn down in late July, will be reflected on the July financials.
  - In-kind revenue and expenditures pertain to the Energy Resiliency Strategy project.
  - Fees/contracts – current revenue includes approximately \$61,000 for the quarterly Broadband Planning project billing.

The Financial Report for the period ending 6/30/13 was approved (Bustle/Dodson)

Chair's Comment: Veteran's Day is on November 11<sup>th</sup>, the second Monday of the month which is our normally scheduled meeting date. Would you like to change the meeting date to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday or 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of November? Vice Mayor Miller said she would like to move it to the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> and Council Members agreed. The November Council Meeting will take place on Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Notification will be sent out as a reminder.

**3. Consent Agenda - Chair Minning**

**A. Budget and Contractual**

Transportation Services Consultants

The Council's transportation services contracts with Grimail-Crawford, Inc. and Johnson Engineering, Inc. are scheduled to expire after five years (on July 14, 2013). The services rendered primarily apply to DRI reviews but could be and have been applied to other projects as well. A provision within the existing Contracts allows for a three-year extension "upon mutual agreement of the Parties" (to July 14, 2016). Each of these firms has expressed a desire for such extension.

Action Recommended: Exercise Article #2 of the existing Contracts to authorize the corresponding three-year extension of the Contracts. In addition, it is proposed that a stipulation be added which would grant authorization of another three-year extension of the Contract following expiration upon the mutual consent of both parties.

Staff Contact: John Meyer, ext. 29

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

1. IC&R Review by Jurisdiction - June/July 2013
2. IC&R Database - June/July 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)**

*Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the State Land Planning Agency and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F. A. C.*

1. DRI # 139W – Tampa Technology Park West, City of Tampa
2. DRI # 260 – Wiregrass Ranch (NOPC #4), Pasco County

The Following Reports are presented for Council action:

3. DRI # 73 – Summerfield Crossings (Amendment A), Hillsborough County
4. DRI # 73 – Summerfield Crossings (Amendment B), Hillsborough County

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

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

DRI # 65 – Tampa Palms Area #3, City of Tampa

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

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

1. DRI # 97 - St. Petersburg Intown Areawide, RY 2012-13 ARS, City of St. Petersburg
2. DRI #104 - International Plaza, RY 2011-12 ARS, City of Tampa
3. DRI #116 - Tampa Telecom Park, RY 2012-13 ARS, City of Temple Terrace
4. DRI #118 - Tampa Cruise Ship Terminal, RY 2012-13 ARS, City of Tampa
5. DRI #131 - Regency Park North, RY 2012-13 ARS, Hillsborough County
6. DRI #195 - Gateway Areawide, RY 2012-13 ARS, City of St. Petersburg

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. No Report is prepared for adopted amendments that do not require Council comments.*

1. DEO # 13-3 ESR, Hillsborough County (proposed)
2. DEO # 13-4 ESR, Manatee County (proposed)
3. DEO # 13-1 ESR, City of St. Pete Beach (proposed)
4. DEO # 13-1 ESR, Town of St. Leo (proposed)
5. DEO # 13-3 ESR, Pasco County (proposed)
6. DEO # 13-2 ESR, City of Zephyrhills (proposed)

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

The following report(s) are presented for Council action:

1. DEO # 13-2ESR, City of Clearwater (proposed)

Staff contact: Brady Smith, ext. 42

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

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

*Council members shall notify the Chair of any items they wish to be pulled from the Consent Agenda. These items will be discussed and voted on separately after the remainder of the Consent Agenda is approved.*

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

Taken out of order:

**7. Council Members' Comments**

- Vice Mayor Miller: The City of Oldsmar has been designated a Green City and received its accreditation, including the new R E Olds Park. Also, Oldsmar Days will take place the last weekend of August with Live Entertainment, Three Car Shows, Judged Bike Show, Food, Beer/Wine, Carnival and Midway, Arts and Crafts, Business Vendors.
- Councilman Newton: The Rays are asking that you attend one more game. Mayor Foster is now thinking more regionally and the possibility of another stadium location.

**8. Program Reports**

- A. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) - Mayor Bob Minning, Chair**  
The Full Agency met on July 11<sup>th</sup>. A brief summary of the meeting was provided. One or more committees of the Agency will meet on September 12<sup>th</sup>.  
Staff contact: Suzanne Cooper, ext. 32
- B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC) - Chair, Mr. Andy Nunez - No Report**  
Staff contact: Avera Wynne, ext. 30
- C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) - No Report**  
Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29
- D. Emergency Management - No Report**  
Staff contact: Betti Johnson, ext. 39
- E. Legislative Committee - Chair, Commissioner Scott**  
The Florida Regional Councils Association Policy Board met on June 28<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Florida Association of Counties conference in Tampa. One of the main topics of the meeting was the planning of a facilitated strategic evaluation process to help the Regional Planning Councils move forward into the future. The first phase would be to conduct a survey of RPC board members, stakeholders and the Governor's office. Phase two will be a joint session of the FRCA Policy Board members and the Executive Directors. Everyone in the meeting agreed that everything should be on the table: boundaries, roles and future direction.  
Staff contact: Wren Krahl, ext. 22
- F. One Bay Livable Communities Working Group - No Report**  
Staff contact: Avera Wynne, ext. 30
- G. Economic Development - No Report**  
Staff contact: Patrick O'Neil, ext. 31
- H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) – No Report**  
Staff contact: Betti Johnson, ext. 39

**9. Other Council Reports**

- A. Ad Hoc RESTORE Act - Ms. Suzanne Cooper, TBRPC Principal Planner**

Since Chairman Minning established the Council's Ad Hoc RESTORE Act committee in January, there have been several meetings where staff has updated the committee members on state and federal activities related to the Act and the committee has discussed the possible effects on the region.

As you may recall, the RESTORE Act establishes two major aspects of Gulf restoration and recovery - environmental and economic.

The committee determined that the Council could effectively assist the region's local governments, as well as the federal Gulf Council on Ecosystem Restoration, Florida's Consortium of Gulf-coast counties, and the State of Florida, by compiling a list of economic recovery projects and conducting an economic impact analysis of each, using the Council's nationally recognized economic model and other tools.

An application form was developed, to include several assumptions to be used in the analyses. All local governments within the region, as well as all entities within the Tampa Bay region that submitted projects for inclusion in the Southwest Florida Regional Ecosystem Restoration Plan, were invited to submit projects.

Twenty-nine projects were received, ranging in cost from 93 thousand to 800 million dollars, and an average cost of 37 million dollars. The total cost of the projects is over one billion dollars, and the annual, recurring gross domestic product for the 29 projects is estimated to total \$51.6 million dollars.

The Ad Hoc committee will meet immediately following this meeting, and all are invited. Today staff will provide updates on federal, state and Florida-coastal counties' activities, and more specific information on the regional projects' economic impact results. We will also discuss the next steps for the committee and staff.

10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report - Chair Minning - No Report**

11. **Chair's Report**

Chair Minning asked that Council members Save the Date for the upcoming TBRPC Strategic Planning Session. This is something we do about every five years with the staff to set new goals and update our Initiatives Plan.

We are hoping that each of you will make it a point to attend. We need and value your input in regard to this guiding document. In order to make it as convenient as possible we are going to have a brief Council meeting at the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting will be held just to conduct business with no speakers in attendance. Once necessary business is completed, we will adjourn the meeting and then begin the Strategic Planning Session. Lunch will be provided and we anticipate that the planning session will last until 3:00 p.m. As we get closer to the date we will provide you with an additional and separate agenda for the Strategic Planning Session.

This past year, regional planning councils concurrently updated their respective Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies using the Florida Chamber Foundation's Six-Pillars of Florida's Future Economy™ as the organizing foundation. This resulted in the alignment of the Strategies with the Five-Year Statewide Strategic Plan for Economic Development, providing a framework for improving regional development partnerships, and encouraging a stable and

diverse economy. As a result of this effort, in June 2013, the Florida Chamber Foundation officially recognized regional planning councils as “Six Pillars Communities” at a ceremony held during the Florida Association of Counties Annual Conference.

Also, the September speaker will be Mr. Tony Carvajal, Executive Vice President for the Florida Chamber Foundation.

Mr. Pumariega thanked Avera Wynne and Patrick O’Neil for the CEDS Plan Update which was approved by the Council in November resulting in this award.

12. **Executive Director’s Report – Mr. Manny Pumariega**

Mr. Pumariega stated he has been selected to be a part of the study team that is going to oversee the PSTA/HART financial analysis. We have had discussions and a presentation by Bob Clifford, Executive Director of TBARTA. TBARTA is the entity designated by the state to conduct the financial analysis, the second phase, regarding the PSTA and HART issues of consolidating functions. The legislature provided funding and I will be a part of the team which will help during the evaluation period and work with PSTA and HART and the completion of that financial analysis. I received the packet on Friday. The TBARTA board hopes to make an award at their upcoming meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The study is to be concluded in January with a report to the legislature on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Newton: Is that purely TBARTA reaching out for assistance?

Mr. Pumariega: I think it was a result of TBRPC reaching out and providing presentations to the three agencies.

Councilman Newton: Without having a hub in Tampa or the Westshore area, this transit initiative will not work. It’s crucial that we all be at the table and get an analysis of the dollars that could be realized with a joining of services. Hopefully we will stay engaged and use this as a launching pad in our quest to be a little more proactive in receiving funding from the state.

Mr. Pumariega: We will update the Council during the process

The FRCA Activity Report is included in the Council Member folders.

Taken out of order:

6. **Office of Energy 2012 Annual Report - Patrick Sheehan**

Patrick Sheehan is the Executive Director of The Office of Energy which is housed under the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Director Sheehan provided a presentation that gives an overview of The Office of Energy and its many roles. In addition, the presentation included information about grants, solar rebates, our annual outlook report, energy policy and the upcoming legislative session.

Commissioner Putnam and staff are pleased with the results of the cooperative relationship on one of our federal stimulus programs that we managed. We managed about \$175 million worth of federal stimulus programs and one of the more successful programs was the Energy Assurance Program where we worked with you. I had the good fortune of being in Marco Island at the environmental permitting continuing education school where Mr. Pumariega and I were on a couple of panels together and Mr. Pumariega did a great job explaining what the goals of that project were, and how it’s going to help us achieve one of the three pillars that Commissioner

Putnam laid out when he inherited the energy portfolio two years ago when the state legislature gave the energy office to the Department of Agriculture. At that time Commissioner Putnam came out with a mission statement and a vision for the future that rests on three key principles, and those are: 1. Ensuring that Floridians have stable pricing when it comes to power-whether it is transportation or electricity power generation; 2. Making sure we have reliable access to that energy; 3. And making sure that we have a diversified enough portfolio of energy that those first two goals can be achieved and we can try to keep as many Floridian dollars here as possible.

Mr. Sheehan joined the Commissioner's team in September, two years ago, roughly 90 days after he inherited the Office of Energy. His goal was to have someone who was familiar at the federal level and Mr. Sheehan had worked on Capitol Hill when Commissioner Putnam was a Congressman, although he did not work for him. The Commissioner was also looking for someone who has international experience, and both energy and national security experience because all of the issues are multi-layered, multi-faceted and in many way they are all tied together. The Commissioner is a strategic thinker and we put his thoughts in our annual energy report. The report can be downloaded at the web site – [www.freshfromflorida.com](http://www.freshfromflorida.com), and follow the links to energy.

A couple of things that have to be done by Florida Statute 377 on an annual basis is the annual energy report which shows what has been done, program goals, and to some extent look out 5-10-20 years for what are Florida's needs in the future where it comes to energy and how to posture ourselves to meet those needs. That facet of the report still needs to be improved. There are two reports on-line and we welcome feedback from communities and individually. As you look at different aspects of energy it is very difficult to prognosticate any kind of pricing structure on any commodity and right now, in the energy world, it's virtually impossible. But we still have that goal and intend to meet it, with your help.

As the State Energy Office you should know that right now we are completely federally funded. Four years ago the federal stimulus program dollars came to the Department of Energy to our state, and our counterpart states, and we received about \$175 million. That will come to a close on September 30<sup>th</sup> of this year when all of the federal stimulus programs must be completed. All of the contracts must be signed and completed. Then we go into a phase of reporting and monitoring. We will be federally funded for another year. At that point we have to determine what it is that the Office of Energy must do under F.S. 377. What is the value added to all of our communities and to our state, and, what is a reasonable proposition in terms of the state funding this office? Again, it's been 4 years since the state has put any direct funding towards the office. I will be sitting down with Commissioner Putnam over the next few days and talk about a couple of different scenarios where we might restructure. We are currently at 18 staff; three of them are part time. At one point we got up to 25 staff, with ten part time staffers. We do get a small allocation outside of the stimulus program of about \$1 to \$1.3 million, depending on the generosity of Congress for baseline activities from the Department of Energy. As such we are then their designated liaison. We frequently work directly with the smaller communities like Tampa/St. Pete/Orlando. I think that will change as we end the stimulus program.

The Office of Energy's functions and responsibilities are to:

- Coordinate federal and state energy programs and administer grants;
- Produce an Annual Energy Report;
- Provide analysis and prepare recommendations;
- Promote and advocate for the development and use of renewable energy resources and energy efficiency technologies;
- Promote energy efficiency and conservation measures in all energy use sectors;
- Serve as the state clearinghouse for all energy information (academia, public and private sectors);

- Provide assistance to other state agencies, counties, municipalities, and regional planning agencies to further and promote their energy planning activities.

During the last two years we have accomplished legislation, the annual report, grants/solar rebates, the Energy Summit of 2013, and reorganization.

What we will continue to do in the future:

- Grants & Loans
- Policy Development. In early September we will sit down with the Commissioner with another package of proposals for legislation.
- 
- Technical Assistance – When the Department was with DCA they would go to schools and go to local communities to help them structure energy savings contracts and talk about the latest energy efficiency devices that were available. We have not been able to do that because all staff has been on deck because of the grants but this is something that we intend to get back to. We would appreciate any thoughts you might have about how we can do this for you.
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- Annual Reports
- 
- Energy Summits – we have had two Energy Summits since the Commissioner has taken care of his portfolio. They have been very successful with over 600 attendees. They were held in Orlando over 3 days. We will have another summit October 14-15 and would like for you or representatives to attend. We will have one set of panels at all times over the two day period. The topic this year will be different than the last two years. It will be broader, and get back to the 5-10-20 outlook and we are bringing in a guest speaker from the Council of Foreign Relations for New York who is an energy expert and an international affairs expert. He takes on the role of, what is the shale and fracking revolution really mean for energy for the United States, if not globally? Will we have energy independence? What are the positives and as Floridians, diversification. How do we mitigate against going all natural gas all the time when it comes to power generation? We are at almost 70% dependency on natural gas, especially in the Florida Power & Light area of Florida. We also have economic development experts coming in from the University of West Florida, and the University of Florida, as well as others from the private sector.
- Web Resources/Databases – We have already completed a couple of databases that I hope you find useful. One of the proposals of the legislation the Commissioner passed called for a survey of what can you do in your own home to make it more energy efficient? For example, a water heater or a flow control when it comes to your shower. That data is out there, the University of Florida has it as well as other groups, but it's not really been elevated to the point where people know it is available. We've taken the best that we could find and made our own database. You can type in your address, what kind of home you have, the square footage, and it should give you helpful tips on what you can do to make your home more energy efficient. We have gotten a lot of good feedback. We will have a new database on lessons learned and the return on investment in the near future.

Mr. Pumariega did a great job talking about the Energy Assurance Study and I would like to invite you to ask any questions of what the intentions are in future programs like this. We are still reviewing this program and some other programs with the Commissioner. There are some strong recommendations and some lessons learned that we can incorporate into future policies that we may offer.

HB 7117 is the energy bill legislation passed two years ago. The renewable and five year tax incentives got some press, and they were initially put into place by Governor Charlie Crist. They allow renewable energy production – one penny per kilowatt hour tax incentive if you produce any type of renewable energy source that produces electricity to the power provider and you get it on the grid. It also has some tax incentives for those who want to invest and develop biofuels. That’s about 75% of your eligible costs for your operations. Over the last five years we had strong utilization of these tax incentives and we felt like those incentives were still useful and positive to reach that goal and have a little home-grown fuel component to the overall pie. We will report, as the statute requires, on the utilization of those. The rules just went back into effect and so they are now available to folks.

HB 579 – Natural Gas Fuel - passed this past year and that caused a challenge to us to administer that program. The Commissioner was asked if he was comfortable having his office manage this program and he said yes, with one caveat. Whatever money they provide for rebates for conversions, it had to be equitable to both private and public. It has to be at least a 60/40 split. 40% of that \$6 million a year of rebates has been reserved for local communities. We have talked with school boards in a number of different counties. We have also talked to the head of transportation policy in the state-the Department of Education, to make sure that all communities that are looking at converting school buses to avail themselves to rebates. The average cost differential between a natural gas school bus and a regular one ranges from \$50,000-\$70,000. You only get 40% back. We frequently work with the smaller communities directly. Additionally the coalition came forward and asked for tax modification. If we drive a natural gas vehicle today we pay about \$100 for a decal that is a one-time flat tax fee and then we don’t pay any more taxes. There aren’t a lot on the road so it hasn’t meant that much to the state. The state realized they are losing revenue. They came forward and said they were going to be proactive and come as a coalition and say, tax us in the same way you are taxing diesel, at an equivalent rate of .25 per gallon. That did not sit well with the Governor because he thought that was a tax increase and it also did not sit well with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation because it will then allow the use of some of the Trust Fund dollars where the state taxes are collected and sit and some of those dollars could flow into the natural gas rebate program and they didn’t want to see any of the dollars being utilized in that way. What they ended up getting is that there is no taxation on natural gas sales as a fuel for transportation for the next five years. And they get \$6 million a year for five years in rebates.

The most important thing that we have noted is that almost everyone that you talk to says that natural gas prices will slowly and incrementally increase over the next couple of decades from roughly \$4 to \$6 or something in that range. There has been a lot of volatility since before 2009 and that is what concerns all of us and public policymakers like Commissioner Putnam and Congress when the natural gas prices spike at \$12 and \$14 and then come crashing down. It makes it very crucial that we do the best job possible in knowing how dependent we are on natural gas and make sure we have adequate storage. The good news is that it is seemingly abundant and we can project to some degree of certainty that the price structure will be fairly balanced. The reality is that we are already, as a state, 65% dependent on natural gas for power generation and that blows every other state away. No other state is that dependent on natural gas.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Florida Energy Summit will take place October 14-15, 2013 at Rosen Shingle Creek, Orlando. [www.floridaenergysummit.com](http://www.floridaenergysummit.com).

Questions & Comments:

Councilman Newton:

You were talking about residents utilizing a lot of renewable technology such as solar. There was a substantial up front cost associated with that. There was a program where they would

analyze your home and see how much you could save if you put in a new HVAC and based on the dollar savings they would use that as a payment.

Mr. Sheehan:

Yes, the PACE Program. There are three programs throughout the state that use the same models.

Councilman Newton:

Would the Commissioner be more proactive with the front end costs? You are talking about a rebate but that's assuming folks have the money to pay up front. You would get more participation.

Mr. Sheehan:

Commissioner Putnam really inherited that solar rebate program. He is not a fan of the structure of it. We did not propose any rebate programs. We are going to inherit the natural gas one because the legislature has told us to administer, but we're not going to propose any rebate programs because we think that they are a one-time offering that does not necessarily have any longevity. Your point is well taken, it doesn't get you over the hump if you don't have the initial \$30,000. We've looked at some ways to do some funding, such as a revolving loan fund program that we are going to set up. We are working with the Florida House and Finance Corporation right now. We will put several million dollars, probably about \$6 million – whatever we have left over from the federal stimulus. It will be very targeted though. The more targeted you are the better the success rate. This community that's been identified internationally are those who own multi-family/multi-tenant because there's not much of an incentive for you as an owner of a hotel or apartment complex to put a lot of effort into energy efficiency when your tenants are coming through and picking up the tab and moving on. Our demographics here are such that Florida, by most analysis, can benefit far more than any other state in that program. We are going to target multi-family/multi-tenant with the revolving loan fund with an interest rate at something around 1%. It's pretty low. In 2008, the citizens of Florida presented a constitutional right where you should be able to put geothermal or solar thermal in your home and not have your property assessed in a way that's detrimental to you. That remained inactive in the legislature and wasn't acted upon. The Commissioner said that we've got to work incrementally towards these goals. If I can put out a bill and get people talking about more energy legislation, that would be a positive. A democrat out of Tallahassee promoted the 2008 referendum again last year and said it's about time.

Commissioner Long:

Is the Commissioner working on or advocating for any kind of relief for our consumers in our state that rely on how much money they've accumulated but they're never going to use for new power plants?

Mr. Sheehan:

I can't talk to you about specifics, but we are talking about ways to help. I can tell you that in meetings we are frustrated. About a year ago when the announcements were coming that the merger was finalized I was in D.C. at a state energy conference and our Chief of Staff who had previously worked with Progress Energy said, what's going to happen to all of the technicians, scientists that are working at that facility right now. That has

dominated their thoughts for a long time as they know a lot of those folks very well and simply saying we are going to have a gas or IGCC plant come on-line later doesn't in anyway mitigate against the loss of the types of jobs and well-paying jobs, seemingly high-skilled jobs that are going to be lost. What we don't know and what the Commissioner is looking at is the decommission process. We've heard stories about how long it will take but we do not yet have a timeline from Duke as to how long that is expected to take and what that means for employment and the community. I can tell you that we met with the Duke officials and the Commissioner has been on the phone many times but not a lot of progress has been made.

Commissioner Long:

As a follow up to that, and I appreciate and am so sensitive to the issues of the employees, I am also even more concerned about the injustice of what is happening to our rate base and he alone would certainly be a tremendous advocate for the rate payers with our legislature who unconscionably refuses to address it. There were a number of voices.

Mr. Sheehan:

Commissioner Long:

I know, I was one of them. I want him to continue advocating for the little guys.

Mr. Sheehan:

It is a huge issue and we've looked at some different ways that are maybe non-traditional to get at that issue. We don't have the answer but we are working on it.

Councilor Matthews:

Someone in Tallahassee needs to be speaking on the differences that we are hearing about, the rates collected for the nuclear plants. Those are passed on and we paid into that. If we don't get anything else out of this merger with Duke, they need to separate that money and save it for a purpose that is designated when it was approved. That has to happen or else it should be given back. Duke is so big and that little bit of money that we all paid in to will disappear in a months' time. They are going to redo all of the plants in Florida just to meet their standards.

Mr. Sheehan:

Unlike North Carolina we don't have merge review. That's an issue that we are looking at very carefully. North Carolina can dictate a lot of terms with a merger like that when the state has the power to intervene.

Councilor Matthews:

Is there any Public Service Commission anymore? It seems like everyone gets everything they ask for every time they ask. It's almost like the PSC does whatever the utility companies tell them to do. It's disappointing.

Mr. Sheehan:

The Commissioner is challenged to consider taking on the PSC calculations as to the valuation of nuclear versus other such as natural gas. It wasn't an easy thing to just dismiss because you look at it long and hard and ask if we have the capacities to do that kind of top level review, the cost review, for a plant versus natural gas. We felt like we couldn't do it justice quickly, but the fact that he was asking us, can we do it gives an insight into his interest in getting to the point that we can. However his response is that the PSC is absolutely failing and the legislature needs to act.

Councilwoman Wilkeson:

Zephyrhills is one of the small communities that your department worked with in 2011. We received an energy efficiency conservation block grant which was used to retrofit

several of our municipal buildings. We realized 20% or more phosphate/nuclear energy conservation; we installed an electric car charging station and through some other grants managed to purchase a Chevy Volt. We also developed an energy and conservation strategy for community residents. We have a core group of community activists that are very interested in that and are planning how they might be able to implement passive solar heating and electricity generation.

Mr. Sheehan: Are you looking at the solar canopies? When you passive solar? That's starting to get some traction here in other communities, in parking lots by providing shade and cover but also generate power.

Councilwoman Wilkeson: We are looking at that for perhaps our skateboard park. That's the biggest problem I have with these big panels is that they aren't very attractive.

Mr. Sheehan: Hopefully we are capturing the data from your community so we can share it with other communities. I really think that the web site showing what each community has done is going to give input to other communities to try something.

Councilwoman Wilkeson: I actually just looked up the City of Zephyrhills and it has "energy grant" and it talks about the audit and all the reports are printed there so you could make a link to that.

Councilman Fridovich: Are you working with other departments? The reason I'm asking is that you talk about energy and efficiency and things like that and we have antiquated roads. We don't have carpooling, we don't have a lot of things we should have. We are way behind the 8-ball. Why does the state not have more wind and solar power both manufacturing and use. We should be the leader of the world.

Mr. Sheehan: I remember the first time I testified before the Senate a couple of years ago a Senator said, why are we wasting our time on wind when all the studies show, the U.S. Department of Energy's information shows you that the wind patterns just aren't sufficient over land in Florida to do much. It's somewhat true. You can go south, east of Lake Okeechobee and there are a couple of companies that put some wind mills up because there the winds coming off the lake are sufficient to power some small scale generation. Unless you are talking about offshore, wind in Florida on the land – we don't have conducive wind rates to really generate large scale. However, for manufacturing we have a facility in Pensacola where General Electric is creating a number of different sized turbines and many of them are going abroad but a lot of them are going into the mid-west and in fact I have cousins who are working on putting them up in Pennsylvania. GE has been doing that for quite some time. What we are looking at, how do we take the clean energy space and make sure it is an economic development driver, even if that particular technology isn't going to be useful to us in this state? We are going to try and find ways to do that as we move forward. On the solar, we should have a lot of solar. We're getting blessed that we have the University of Central Florida because they have long studied this issue. We are also blessed that we have a new expert coming to town, Dr. Simmons, who is

at FGCU. He came from the University of Arizona. He is doing some very interesting testing showing very different temperature and humidity factors that don't make PV as attractive as somewhere like Arizona. Not to say it's not attractive, there are just some very different things that we have to worry about. Bottom line for us is that we know we can't just take a cookie cutter approach to it. We have to be a little bit more sophisticated but we've been working through our academic consortium. Another thing on solar, it provides an interesting option in that Florida has a unique challenge with water and water conservation and the assurance that we have water for decades to come. Solar does not take much water. We need to make that linkage more clear in the minds of stakeholders and policy leaders so that you aren't just talking about solar and that it has zero emissions, but also in Florida it is one of the few ways that we can do all that and save a lot of water. Every other approach, including one very close to the Commissioner, bioenergy takes water. We're going to have to do better finding a way to promote that. We are looking actively on how we can incentivize more solar projects.

Councilman Fridovich:

We keep talking about bio-sources, biofuels and things like that. One of the number one crops in the country and in the world for bio is hemp. It has nothing to do with marijuana. It was the number one crop in the United States prior to the Revolutionary War. Trying to put hemp farms, which would produce food, brambles, paper, clothing and fuel. I checked with your office a while ago to find out what it would take to do a hemp farm. They have to figure out ways to allow ideas. Hemp would be your number one source, but we can't do it.

Mr. Sheehan:

The University of Florida has a test facility in the Perry area where a doctor has been using a micro-digestive process to breakdown anything. A variety of folks have come and said they want to run different things through, including hemp, and see the energy output. The other thing that I think is going to be key is, last year a quarter of a million dollars was put out through the agri-subcommittee appropriations specifically looking for ways to connect farmers with land, to use their land for any type of project. It doesn't have to be energy. It could be bio-technology, it could be medicine. We are managing custodians of those dollars and we are going to put those on the streets in the form of an RFP. We will probably use a database technology with significant opportunities where we can link to federal, state, and other private interested parties to try to find ways to use these lands. We hear all the time that farmers have "X" number of acres. I think that would be one way we could network.

Commissioner Mariano:

I'm glad you recognize that by taking all those applications in for the solar program and people not getting funded. Is there actually an opportunity with Duke Energy and with all the money they have right now, one of the things that I heard as far as solar energy goes is you are only getting the wholesale value back after you have done your retail. You're not going to get a return on these investments. I think anyone who is a Duke Energy customer, wholesale or retail, should be paid 100%. All

the retail, all that money that expired, back. Put the incentive out there. It would be a long time flow, but at the same time you'll know the money is going to come back. That would probably spur a lot of solar around the state and create more business jobs. Natural gas – we've got a great supply out there. Are you converting vehicles as opposed to dealing with factories, where the cost is probably quadrupled? If you can get manufacturing to come in, build something in Florida, and commit to that. Let them build a plant and start building these vehicles for us. Run gas lines up and down the whole state so people in infrastructure can give them fuel. You have to put the infrastructure in place. I think if you go along that line you will actually pick up a lot of restaurants that may not have it as well. In Springhill, north of us in Hernando County, they have a gas line that TECO has put in and when they run those lines up there he pays about a tenth of what he pays in Pasco for the same amount of gas. It's great for redevelopment and great for cutting costs. If you could push those two things down the line, that would do a lot for the state.

Mr. Sheehan:

We have looked at how we could bring more energy related manufacturing to Florida. There's a small automotive facility right now that's trying to do personal cars, not necessarily natural gas, but they are trying to do a new light weight energy efficient, and to some degree it kind of looks like a of kit car that's far more robust. They want to use that as a new energy efficient type of car that you can buy and have made at the facility. You could go to your retailer and they have all the parts and you can order it. They are the only ones that are really doing automotive manufacturing for the next generation in Florida. We are trying to support them with federal opportunities. I think the challenge in getting a large C&G conversion facility down here is the financing. We've been talking to some financiers who have looked at bringing the size of that money here and it's basically a chicken and egg type of thing. The financing in Florida wants to go to stations. That architecture builds a reliable network of C & G stations is where we are starting to fall in terms of the chicken and egg. We know that can be done. Then maybe we can bring in manufacturing. I think we are on the side of getting the signal set before we try to build.

Commissioner Mariano:

What I'm actually talking about is building a pipeline that you could tap into. The cost would go down and it would be efficient. Once that is in place you can tap into it and build the stations.

Mr. Sheehan:

The Commissioner came out and supported the third pipeline because he felt like you need more of a moving supply or storage. That's the backbone. Now we know we have to get the laterals, the arterials. There are a lot of areas who have expressed support. We've been told there are some regulatory barriers we might be able to work with DEP on. The transportation area is going to demand more with the coal plants going into retirement and no new ones being built, and the nuclear plants now going into retirement or reconditioning – we really have very few choices to fill up the large need. In the next

ten years it's going to be natural gas and we have to make sure the supply is readily available.

Councilman Newton:

When I did the tour of the Weedon Island Progress Energy Plant they had a pipeline that ran all the way down to the plant. Some infrastructure is already out there. Is there any way to branch off that instead of building new pipes all the way down the state?

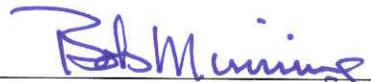
Mr. Sheehan:

It all depends on how many pipes you really have. Two large ones go along the state and across the Panhandle. The third one will come down the east coast and go up into Georgia and up into Montgomery, Alabama where there is a major intersection of gas. You have a lot of elements. Mass amounts come through those two larger lines.

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)

Next Meeting: Monday, September 9, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

**Adjournment:** 11:34 a.m.



Bob Minning, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary