



Council Minutes

www.tbrpc.org

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April 13, 2015
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Commissioner Victor Crist, Hillsborough County, Chair
Mayor Woody Brown, City of Largo, Vice Chair
Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton, Sec./Treasurer
Mayor David Archie, City of Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County
Councilwoman Yvonne Yolie Capin, City of Tampa
Mr. Jacob Cremer, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Carlos Diaz, City of Safety Harbor
Mr. Nick DiCeglie, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Robert "Pete" Edwards, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Rick Falkenstein, City of St. Pete Beach
Council Member Michael Fridovich, City of Gulfport
Council Member Hoyt Hamilton, City of Clearwater
Commissioner Janet Long, Pinellas County
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Mr. John Neal, Manatee County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Gail Neidinger, City of South Pasadena
Deputy Mayor Bill Phillips, City of New Port Richey
Mr. Frank Rygiel, Pasco County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Tim Schock, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Robert Sebesta, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Kathryn Starkey, Pasco County
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee
Ms. Mary Yeargan, Ex-officio, FDEP
Mr. Waddah Farah, Alt., Ex-officio, FDOT
Mr. David Dunbar, SWFWMD

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Council Member Bob Boss, City of Temple Terrace
Councilman Jonathan Davis, City of Palmetto
Vice Mayor Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Commissioner Bruce Livingston, City of Dunedin
Mr. Mike Moore, Pasco County gubernatorial appointee
Mr. Andy Núñez, Pinellas County gubernatorial appointee, Past Chair
Councilwoman Darden Rice, City of St. Petersburg
Council Member Eric Seidel, City of Oldsmar
Mr. Scott Sheridan, Hillsborough County gubernatorial appointee
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Mary Yeargan, Ex-officio, FDEP

OTHERS PRESENT

Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
John Lyons, Director, Public Works, Hillsborough County
John Osborn, Planning Official, Manatee County

STAFF PRESENT

Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Don Conn, Legal Counsel
Maya Burke, Senior Planner
Lori Denman, Recording Secretary
Randy DeShazo, Principal Planner
Wren Krahl, Director of Administration/Public Information
John Meyer, Principal Planner
Brady Smith, Principal Planner
Beth Williams, Accounting Manager
Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Crist

The April 13, 2015 meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC) was called to order at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report – None

The invocation was given by Mr. Nick DiCeglie, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Public Comment: None.

Motion to close the Public Comment portion of the agenda (Minning/Brown)

Announcements:

New Gubernatorial Appointees:

- Mr. Jacob Cremer, Hillsborough County is an Environmental Land Use and Property Rights Attorney with Bricklemyer, Smolker & Bolves. Mr. Cremer has lived in Tampa for about 2 ½ years. Before that he was in Tallahassee, and was raised in Putnam County. His interest in the Council is that he is relatively new to the region and hopes to bring ideas to the table. He has dealt with RPCs on occasion from the development perspective and is interested in learning about some of the new issues like emergency management preparedness which Manny talked about during his orientation meeting. Mr. Cremer said he looks forward to participating and contribute.
- Mr. Robert “Pete” Edwards, Hillsborough County, retired and former Drug Court Counselor with DACCO and has an extensive background in counseling and development.
- Mr. Frank Rygiel, Pasco County, Vice President of Batson Cook Company. Batson Cook is a large contractor in the Tampa Bay area. They are building the Skyhouse in downtown Tampa which is a 24 story building and a 21 story building on Harbor Island. There are a lot of exciting things going on. Mr. Rygiel is from Pasco County and is very involved locally on several different boards. His mother has been with Leadership Florida which inspired him to start thinking regional.
- Mr. David Dunbar, Ex-officio representing Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), and a Bank Executive with Synovus Bank of Florida. Mr. Dunbar has lived in Pinellas County since 1956. He has been appointed by 2-3 Governors for statewide commissions and was appointed to SWFWMD a couple of years ago. His predecessor on this board was Todd Pressman, an outstanding individual from Pinellas for a lot of years.

These new appointments complete the 12 designated gubernatorial appointees for the Council. Chair Crist welcomed the new appointees and said that the Council looks forward to their participation and involvement.

New Member Government Representatives:

- Commissioner Rick Falkenstein, representing the City of St. Pete Beach.
- Council Member Eric Seidel, representing the City of Oldsmar. (absent)

Energy Summit:

Information on the upcoming Energy Summit was distributed in Council folders. The Summit is taking place on May 28-29 at the Hilton Carillon Park. Council members were asked to assist in obtaining sponsorships for the event and information is available through the website: www.summit-tb.org. Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd and Council Member Hoyt Hamilton were thanked for taking the lead on the summit. They have been working on putting together an agenda but need assistance with obtaining sponsorships. This summit will get to the root of the issue and there are a lot of people coming in from outside the state and will be an opportunity to be able to get to the next level. Chair Crist asked members to participate.

Council Member Hamilton: It will be an interesting two days. Staff has done a tremendous job of putting together an itinerary that will cover a broad spectrum of the issues. We have some great people coming in from Washington D.C. and Tallahassee to participate as well as the big players in the energy business. We also would like to have a great contingent of people and students. USF St. Pete is working with us, as well as USF Tampa to get some people here. We are searching for sponsors and would ask that Council Members help. Council Member Hamilton is working with Bright House trying to get them to be a major sponsor where we can earmark their money to scholarship some of the younger people to attend the summit to get a hands on feel for what is going on.

Q. Has anyone reached out to any of the sanitation companies?

A. We will be reaching out to them.

1. **Approval of Minutes – Councilman Roff, Sec./Treas.**
Approved the minutes from the March 9, 2015 regular meeting. (Hamilton/Matthews)
2. **Budget Committee – Councilman Roff, Sec./Treas.**
Approved the Financial Report for the period ending 2/28/15. (Minning/Long)
3. **Consent Agenda - Chair Crist**
 - A. **Budget and Contractual - None**
 - B. **Intergovernmental Coordination & Review (IC&R) Program**
 1. IC&R Review by Jurisdiction – March 2015
 2. IC&R Database – March 2015Action Recommended: None. Information Only.
Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29 or johnm@tbrpc.org
 - C. **DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) – None**
 - D. **DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR) - None**
 - E. **Notice of Proposed Change Reports (NOPC) - None**
 - F. **Annual Report Summaries (ARS) / Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)**
 1. DRI # 130 – Cypress Banks, RY 2014-15 ARS, Manatee County
 2. DRI # 140 – Tampa Triangle, RYs 2011-14 ARS, Hillsborough County

3. DRI # 161 – University Center Research & Development Park, RY 2014-15 ARS, City of Tampa
4. DRI # 210 – New River, RYs 2011-14 ARS, Pasco County
5. DRI # 249 – South Shore Corporate Park, RYs 2012-14 ARS, Hillsborough County

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29 or johnm@tbrpc.org

G. DRI Status Report

Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

Staff contact: John Meyer, ext. 29 or johnm@tbrpc.org

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 # 15-4ESR, Pasco County
2. DEO # 15-1ESR, City of Dunedin
3. DEO # 15-5ESR, Pasco County

Action Recommended: Approve staff report(s)

Staff contact: Brady Smith, ext. 42 or brady@tbrpc.org

I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

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

1. DEO # 15-2ESR, City of Dade City

Action Recommended: Approve staff report(s)

Staff contact: Brady Smith ext. 42 or brady@tbrpc.org

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda. (Long/Rygiel)

4. **Item(s) Removed from the Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None**
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**
6. **Increasing Efficiency in Local Government Field Operations**
Mr. John Lyons, Public Works Director, Hillsborough County shared how the Hillsborough County Public Works Department is changing the way they manage maintenance activities through the integration of GIS and the Computerized Maintenance Management System for better maintenance decisions.

This has been a three year process. We had a computerized maintenance management system for about 10 years. It was kind of arcaic. We looked at processes and got everyone involved, from the laborer up to the manager of maintenance, and then we bought software to replace the old software.

There are about 466 sq. miles, about 960 including the unincorporated area. The population in Hillsborough County is about 1.2 million with 800,000-900,000 in the unincorporated areas. There are three cities and about 3,217 centerline road miles. We are a large organization with over 600 employees within the Public Works Department. We take care of not only the traditional public works areas – stormwater and roadways but we also have a solid waste organization within our department which services over 278,000 residential customers. The annual operating budget is about \$153 million. We have four locations from the landfill in the southeastern part of the county to our maintenance units that focus on the transportation and stormwater side of the business.

About 3 years ago we brought on a consultant that dug into the very grass roots of the organization. They listed what current operations did, talked about levels of service, identified opportunities, recommendations, and established a business-like approach of performing maintenance. We wanted to do 80% planned work and 20% reactionary. We took advantage of using GIS to help with this process. We identified backlogs of work. Under the old system we had stacks of work orders on desks. We found that there was the same work order in there 3 to 4 to 5 times. It was an overwhelming amount of information. We also moved to short-term scheduling for the three maintenance units. The consultant met with folks on various occasions, interviewed folks and talked about the type of work they did, and what the work process was. The interesting piece of this process was the consultant heard feedback and wrote it down on a piece of paper and took it back out to them and said, this is what I heard. Then the folks challenged it and said this is not the way we do this. It was an organic process that took place. They built collaboration and a relationship. They were totally involved all the way from our collective bargaining unit employees who do contracting with a certain portion of the labor force and everybody was invited to this process, from top to bottom. Cost Comparison -- there are some things we do very well, and there are some things that we're not really competitive. For example, the sidewalk that we work on we can farm out to contractors. We can also farm out pipe replacement/repair. We need to do those emergency items and those simple things but for the most part we need to get out of that business as well. We don't do everything ourselves, we rely on contractors to support us in a lot of different areas. What we take care of are the common day things like trees, maintenance of grass to mow, litter to pick up, pipe cleaning, etc. -- those are the types of things we contract out.

At one point in time we had 4 maintenance yards throughout the county. We used GIS to compare historical work data and asset distribution which ultimately reduced the number of maintenance yards to three and staff was redistributed which resulted in savings with not having to pay for electricity and maintenance in that facility and still able to provide the same level of service.

The call center responded to a lot of different things from potholes to trimming trees, removing brush, etc. We took all of that information and the consultant came back with basic opportunities for improvement with 69 recommendations. They got into the key components -- planning, organizing, directing and control. We then put an internal team together and created a systems planning group. These folks manage the software and are also the inspection team, they furthered the contractors that are utilized and put all the pieces together. We established business processes and looked at scheduling. We looked at our activities, our assets, and our resource base, resources by either our own employees or by contractors. The activity list and guidelines -- we had a process that said this is how you mow grass but we didn't have a process that says this is how you mow grass and this is how much you should do in a given day with the type of equipment. So this activity list and guidelines basically defines a level of performance, what has to be done such as setting out "mowing ahead" signs and those types of things that are a part of the work process. It also becomes a performance standard for the employees, for the managers of the units, for the division director over the operations and ultimately for myself to be accountable. 80% of our time should be spent on this type of activity and 20% to the other. We used GIS to establish work routines for each of those types of activities. We worked on breaking the mowing down into mowing blocks on a two week cycle. When you think about the mowing it's easy to say it's just mowing grass, but we have bush-hogging in the rural areas, slope mowing, and in the urban areas you have curb and gutter that needs to be edged, sidewalks that need to be edged. Each block has a different size and a different amount of assets. Again, everybody was involved in the discussion. So ten cycles equals about 34,000 acres as per the contracts and the work our employees do the work. We used GIS to delineate the different kind of mowing in the area. We did the same thing with other types of assets that we did. There's a worksheet that goes out to the crews so they know what they are expected to do for a two week period.

Ditch and canal cleaning -- we got into a routine cycle there. There are a couple of hundred miles of ditches and canals that need to be cleaned and they need to be on a three year cycle as opposed to reacting. The first effort will be heavy cleaning but once we get into a normal cycle we should be

able to get in and get out quicker because we won't have to do that heavy lift every cycle. The same thing with trees – the trees grow and start hanging down into roads and the garbage trucks get hit and the branches fall down. We want to get into a three year cycle of tree trimming as well. Sidewalks were mapped and we identified broken sidewalks. This is an area we have had challenges with financial sources but we are working on that as well trying to be the most effective as we can.

We evaluated assets, criticality, conditions, scope, resources available and we were able to plan who will do the work, what work is to be done, when it will be done, the location and the cost. We started to sound more and more like a business instead of government.

We have routine repair and maintenance; response work that pulls crews off schedule, and systems – inspection and work identification. We have work request orders, work scheduling, and backlog. We created GIS based operations blocks. These efficient blocks were created for execution by units or contractors and we report to the board what we are spending. We had some issues with litter pick up a couple of years ago like mowing over trash creating confetti and so we got squared up on that as well. We have to pick up the litter before mowing. Some of those things are very important. WE also do vegetative spraying so we incorporated the logical use of chemicals to help retard growth and take care of weeds.

Every two weeks the crew leaders sit down with our systems planning folks and they meet via video conferencing. They talk about what they accomplished and what they are going to accomplish. On a monthly basis those folks all get together in one location for a face to face. Those crew leaders have to stand up before their peers and say if they met their schedule or exceeded it or I didn't meet my schedule. There is a report that is produced with the results with the reason why something wasn't done. Within that we talk about the turf management cycles and when to pick up and when to spray. All of that gets integrated into the mowing activity.

Work reporting, performance and costing analysis and management action – up to this point we really have not spoken about the computerized maintenance system. We did buy one, it's been about 16 months into implementation right now. We are seeing more data coming in and it's making a difference, and getting communicated down to the workforce so they understand what they are supposed to do and are starting to understand what the costs are better. All of this is just good communication throughout the organization. Reports are generated from the system and it shows where we stand monthly. We have reduced our backlog. We started with a lot of work orders and whittled it down to about 400 work orders in the backlog right now. We will continue to work on that and measure and monitor it.

The real results are:

- Reduction of a maintenance yard with no reduction of service.
- Reduction of staff by 7% yet more work is being done.
- Major activities (mowing, trees, ditches) from 20% planned to 80% planned.
- Mowing cycles have increased from 3 to 8.
- Routines for all major activities.
- Acknowledgement of success at 3 national APWA conferences and 3 Florida ones, staff awards and articles.
- Independent Audit

Lessons learned:

- Established expectations with feedback at all levels.
- Training and use of current technology at all levels.
- Business processes and technology to match needs.
- Empowerment & involvement of employees at all levels.
- Focuses maintenance on extending the useful life of assets.
- Routine and preventative maintenance programs established.

- Staff challenged to innovate and seek operational efficiencies.
- Document success and give credit.

Within about 3 more months we should be 100% integrated into our computerized maintenance system. We bought the software for about \$.5 million for the application.

Pinellas County Public Works has a similar process and we had conversations with them as we embarked on this effort.

Questions & Comments:

- Mayor Minning: What was the most difficult challenge?
 Mr. Lyons: Changing the culture of the organization. We have a lot of employees that are well hidden and for example, the phone rings so you drop what you are doing and go do that, and then the phone rings again, drop that and do this. So buffering those folks away from that chaos as well. The further we get down into the organization we want to talk to those folks. The guy on the tractor doesn't need to be distracted by 10 other things. They need to focus on what they need to do. Communication is important.
- Councilman Roff: Do you use law enforcement workers?
 Mr. Lyons: We do occasionally. Specifically we will work with the code enforcement folks and use community service workers for litter pick up. We try to take advantage of that as much as possible. We have a separate contract for litter pick up as well but anything that we can do for relatively a low or no cost we do that. We coordinate with Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful and try to integrate all that as well. The synergy between the solid waste side of the department and the transportation side of the department has grown tremendously in the last year. Solid waste used to stand on their own in a different department and we purposely brought them all together because trash ends up with the solid waste group. We are doing some exciting things within the solid waste group, we are working with public utilities, and doing some consults. We are flaring landfill gas currently at the landfill so we are also looking at opportunities to bring in a third party to capture that gas and generate some energy. We are always looking at any angle we can to reduce costs and increase revenues.
- Chair Crist: Mr. Lyons pushed through, with the backing of the board, the reorganizing of everything and what resulted was a significant cost savings and they significantly increased the volume of recyclables in what is now a far less obtrusive in neighborhoods, less litter, more uniformity, easier to use than anyone ever expected.
- Mr. Lyons: We have two trash pickups and one recycling per week.
- Mr. Schock: You have sidewalk repair and pipe repair and some of that needed to be off loaded from in-house staff to contracted staff. How does the county then manage the contracts, how often do you go out for re-bids on contracts?
- Mr. Lyons: There are a couple of different ways we handle that. Sidewalk contracts are pretty much bid as a unit price with identified areas. On the stormwater side regarding pipes we use what we call work-order contracts where we bid out. Those contracts are typically 1-2 years. We are looking at packaging things together for bigger areas.
- Chair Crist: What is the net cost for this and what period of time do you expect to have a payback?

Mr. Lyons: The consultant was \$800,000 to \$900,000 over a three year period. I think the payback is already happening. The computerized maintenance system we needed to replace – we have about \$1.3 million investment over a four year period. I like it when a consultant comes in to assist us, you think that's worth \$200,000 a year (about 2 staff people on a full time basis at a higher level). The good thing about having a consultant come in, they aren't afraid to say what they want to say. They are going to tell you the truth whether you like it or not and it's almost like an auditor coming in saying you aren't doing very well. But they also identify a lot of things we do well.

Chair Crist: How did you find the consultant group?
Mr. Lyons: We went through a bid process. (RFP)

Chair Crist: How would this benefit local governments for being able to service their constituents?
Mr. Lyons: One aspect is when somebody calls you could look and see when, for instance, a particular area was mowed 2 weeks ago and will be mowed again next week. You could say that with certainty. Under the old system it was a wild guess. My goal is, no more calls for potholes, no more calls for stormwater.

Chair Crist: It makes it easier for our aides to actually send to you for our constituents an actual location of that pothole with GPS and your folks can pull it right up and look at it.

Vice Chair Brown: Is the mowing schedule accessible to the public on your website?
Mr. Lyons: Not at this point in time.

Vice Chair Brown: You mentioned calls about potholes – are people able to go on-line to report a pothole?
Mr. Lyons: We're not there yet. Our communications department is working on a new customer service system for the entire county. I believe there are some applications that will be rolled out relatively soon.

Vice Chair Brown: With this new system will it change the way that you re-asphalt and maintain roads? Will they go onto a regular schedule, 3 year cycle?
Mr. Lyons: Yes. If we have the funding. We have a very large backlog of resurfacing needs in the county.

Chair Crist: This is the technology that will allow somebody to take a picture with our cell phone and send it to the department and the GPS will immediately pull up a picture and the location and send a notice to the appropriate individual.
Mr. Lyons: It could be anything from a missing manhole cover to sidewalks, limbs down, stop sign down.

Commissioner Falkenstein: The City of St. Pete Beach just contracted with Public Stuff that does that with smart phones. It's a great app. You need to look at that and get with the Florida League of Cities. Go on-line, it's called Public Stuff.
Chair Crist: How do you interface with it?
Commissioner Falkenstein: It will send a work order. If it's a tree, or lawn needing to be mowed, or a pothole, take a picture and send it and you create a work order and through the system it lets you know if the jobs been complete, or when the job will be completed automatically.

Before we did this it would come into my office and I would have had to make a decision on where to send it. With this it automatically links to it and gets automatically sent to the department.

Ms. Yeargan: As a citizen of Hillsborough County I would like to say thank you for the recycling. We used to have one of those little blue bins that would overflow every week and now we have something as big as a garbage can and that's what is full now, not the garbage. That helps the state of Florida and the required recycling goal of 75%.

Mr. Lyons: The only thing is, we prefer cans over glass. Glass has a negative value.

Council presentations can be found at
http://www.tbrpc.org/council_members/council_presentations.shtml

8. A. **Legislative Committee – Commissioner Black, Chair**

The legislature is moving quickly to its scheduled adjournment date of May 1st. While over 1700 bills have been introduced in both houses, most will not make it out of committee. At this time of the session, committee meetings are mostly over, except for the appropriations committees, and legislative action consists mainly of floor debate in both houses.

As frequently happens this time of every session, many bills that deal with similar topics are combined into what is referred to as a "train". We are hearing that SB-1216 (which exempts developments from the DRI process if they are in a connected-city corridor that is identified in a local government's comp plan) will become the growth management "train" by combining and incorporating SB-404 (local government assistance for repair of sinkhole damage), SB-484 (DRIs and RPCs), SB-562 (state coordinated review process for large developments), and SB-832 (sector plans). I will deal with a couple of these in detail in a moment.

As of Friday, the "train" had not left the station but once it does it is expected to move rapidly, so watch SB-1216.

THE STATUS OF BILLS WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. SB-484 by Senator Simpson – [RPCs] This Bill eliminates one Regional Planning Council and assigns Citrus and Hernando Counties to the TBRPC. Funding for the RPCs which was included in an earlier version of this Bill has been removed and will be addressed in the General Appropriations Bill. Many RPC responsibilities are removed including: (1) the requirement to offer a dispute resolution program; (2) the requirement for the RPCs to make an annual joint report to the Legislature; (3) the requirement that an RPC notify a local government if it does not receive a biennial report from a developer related to a development of regional impact; (4) the requirement that an RPC prepare a report regarding the impacts of a proposed electrical power plant and its consistency with the strategic regional policy plan and (5) the requirement that RPCs review urbanized area transportation plans and any MPO plans, as well as the requirement that RPCs assist local governments that are not part of a metropolitan area transportation planning process in the development of the transportation element of their comprehensive plans.

Bill Status: Passed favorably by the Community Affairs Committee and now in Senate Appropriations.

2. HB-933 by the House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and Rep. La Rosa [Growth Management and RPCs] This bill appears to be the vehicle through which all growth management matters will be handled in the House. It is similar to SB-484 and also requires local governments to include "a property rights element that protects private property rights" as part of the local government's comprehensive plan, names Pasco County as a pilot community that may adopt

connected-city corridor plan amendments, allows a conservation easement to be based on aerial photos without the need for a survey, provides that if a local government applies concurrency to transportation or public education facilities then any required proportionate share payment cannot exceed 125% of any applicable mobility or impact fee, and replaces the Governor's power to set RPC boundaries with the ability to recommend boundary changes to the Legislature.

Bill Status: This Bill has passed favorably out of two committees and is now in the Economic Affairs Committee.

3. SB-562 by Senator Simpson – [DRIs] This Bill removes the requirement that new developments surpassing certain thresholds and standards be subjected to the development of regional impact review process. The Bill shifts comprehensive plan amendments related to such developments from the Expedited State Review Process to the State Coordinated Review Process.

Bill Status: Passed favorably in 3 Committees and now on the Senate Calendar and ready for consideration by the full Senate.

4. SB-86 by Senator Bean – [Medical Tourism] This Bill relates to the statewide medical tourism marketing program and would require Enterprise Florida, Inc., to collaborate with the Department of Economic Opportunity to market this state as a health care destination.

Bill Status: Has yet to be heard in any Committee.

5. HB-7067 by House Economic Development and Tourism Subcommittee and Rep. La Rosa – [Economic Development Incentives] This Bill modifies the economic development incentive tax refund and grant program and creates a new state administered enterprise zone certification program. In addition, the Bill would create a new approval process for performance-based cash incentive programs; exempt certain new developments from having to comply with impact fee, concurrency, or proportionate share requirements for transportation impacts for three years; and extend and renew certain permit extensions previously authorized by the Legislature.

Bill Status: The Bill has been passed favorably by one House Sub Committee and is now ready to be heard by the House Economic Affairs Committee.

6. HB-895 by Rep. Ahern – [Flood Insurance] This Bill amends flood insurance legislation passed the 2014 Session to create a type of flood insurance called "flexible flood insurance," which is defined as coverage for the peril of flood that may include water intrusion coverage, includes or excludes specified provisions, and requires that flexible flood policies must be acceptable to a mortgage lender if such policy, contract, or endorsement is intended to satisfy a mortgage requirement.

Bill Status: This Bill was passed favorably in the Insurance and Banking Committee and Appropriations and is now in the Regulatory Affairs Committee.

Questions & Comments:

- Ms. Todd: In this legislative summary it referenced State Coordinated Review Process – what in the world is that?
- Mr. Conn: It's an alternative review process, more at the state level.
- Ms. Todd: So if something with development impacts for two or three communities that are not in the same county, how are they going to do that?
- Mr. Conn: Yet to be determined.
- Councilman Roff: SB 484, where it says Citrus and Hernando would come to us, that's the Withlacoochee RPC which is a pretty unique area. And it says the bill appropriates \$2.5 million for the RPCs and then the update was amended to remove the \$2.5 million. Can you explain?
- Mr. Conn: The bill originally had \$2.5 million for the RPCs. That was removed because generally appropriations are not done in an individual bill but are done in the appropriations bill. We're hopeful that the \$2.5 million will

appear in the appropriations bill. It's nothing to be concerned about if that were removed from a specific bill as long as it shows up in the appropriations bill. In terms of the Withlacoochee RPC and why the determination is being made to discontinue that, I don't have any background and I really don't know the reason for it. I know Senator Simpson is from that area but I don't know what prompted that.

Commissioner Long: While it's ok to say it's nothing to be concerned about except the appropriations bill has already been put out there. Do you know if it's in the house or if it's in the Senate?

Mr. Conn: When I say it's nothing to be concerned about I was speaking more of the process.

Commissioner Long: That part I get. The part that I'm concerned about is those things have already been put out there.

Mr. Pumariega: I believe it's \$200,000 at the appropriation, in both the house and senate, at least in the house.

Mr. Wynne: \$200,000 in the Senate and \$0 in the House.

Commissioner Long: It would be important to identify a House member to really work with them on the House side when they go to conference so that you're not starting from scratch again.

Mr. Pumariega: Our legislative team in Tallahassee is working on pursuing \$2.5 million appropriation. I will do my report now since it deals with this issue. One of the things I told everybody is there's an 90% chance that the legislative session is going to be extended. The other thing that is troubling is that 40-50% think it's going to go into June. For sure it will go beyond the May 2nd or 3rd date. It centers around the budget.

- B. Agency on Bay Management (ABM) – Mayor Minning, Chair**
The Habitat Restoration Committee of the ABM met jointly with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program Technical Advisory Committee on February 12th. A summary of that meeting was in the Council agenda packet. A full agency meeting will be held on March 12th at 9:00 a.m.
- C. Local Emergency Planning Committee – No Report**
- D. Medical Tourism**
Mr. Avera Wynne provided an update on the Council's initiative to establish Tampa Bay as a medical tourism destination.

In February we had a presentation on medical tourism from the Medical Tourism Association out of Miami/Palm Beach. The Council voted to put out an RFP to get a consultant to figure out a roadmap for creating Tampa Bay as a medical tourism destination. Staff has been meeting with the county administrators, the economic development folks, and importantly the CVB folks in the four counties. Generally met with an enthusiastic response and we have been drafting the RFP. We are pretty close to being done with that. We hope to go out as early as this week. One concern we have is that we don't have all of the money put together to pay for it but in order not to slow down the process and be able to have the Council select a consultant at the June meeting, we're probably going to have to have those two activities overlap a little. The idea is that Council would select a consultant in June, work on the study during the summer months into the fall, and try to be at a 90% complete stage with the study in October. The reason why we are trying to be aggressive with that is that the legislature is likely to appropriate \$3 million again this year for medical tourism and this time instead of just focusing on the marketing aspect they might put money into doing the next phase of where we are in October in trying to establish the medical tourism

destination. One of the things we learned is that this concept is much broader than just positional medical travel that we think about where people come in to have procedures and hospitality. It ties in with the CVBs and to the medical meetings and training concepts – hosting medical professionals and people that are in the medical device industry and the like in our region and we have quite a few things that I'll mention briefly related to that. The third aspect that ties in particularly well for Pasco and Manatee Counties is the sports and human performance aspect like the INGs in Bradenton, the new hockey arena at Wiregrass in Pasco County. People come into our state to train. My son was over in Clermont for a track meet and they have a big national training center there and that's generally in our area. Those three things have broadened since February from the traditional medical travel to include medical meetings and training and sports and human performance. Currently the state has allocated some of their marketing money called Spread the Florida Health and one of the things we will figure out with this study is, do we try to advance that brand or do we have our own brand for Tampa Bay? Do they work together? The current round of funding, CAMLS (USF Center for Advanced Medical Learning & Simulation) received \$200,000 of the state money and they have to match it dollar for dollar and promote the Discover Florida Health message. They are going to do that by bringing in training, workshops. Visit Tampa Bay currently has \$50,000 (rounded off) and that's to bring in medical meeting and conventions and training. One of the things we found out is that medical device manufacturing is a big industry in our region particularly in Pinellas County and we're undertaking, again, putting in the designation of investing and manufacturing community partnerships application with the federal government. We submitted that April 1st. We are focused on that with the device manufacturing. These training meetings, people come, the device manufacturers come to our region and they learn how to install the devices in our region and their sales people will come in at the positions that do the work and then they go out and sell the devices and install the devices. There's a real big tie-in with the medical tourism industry there that we weren't as aware of when we first got started. I mentioned CAMLS and Visit Tampa in Hillsborough. Visit St. Pete/Clearwater has a \$200,000 grant from the state of Florida to try to promote and market medical meetings and trainings. Tampa General has a large \$500,000 and theirs is focused on cardiology. They have a convention coming up soon with people from over 200 countries. We are already a pretty big player but the thing is, we need to work better together. We may not get done by October but the idea is to get done by October to be in a position to leverage the state money that's coming up. The state has gone full bore into the medical tourism concept but there's really not the research behind it. Hopefully we will get a leg up with our region. There is a companion study the state is doing and I don't know the details but they are hoping to be done in October as well. When they do that they are looking at the state as a whole where we will be looking at the Tampa Bay region.

Questions & Comments:

Chair Crist:

For our new Council members, early on we had a presentation on medical tourism. Most of the local counties are approaching it from who do we have that can promote and market on a regional, national or international basis? The approach we are taking is, let's take a look at our market as a whole, all four counties, and do an assessment of what we have. Layer all the potential entities that could offer up quality services and let's go through and see how they compare on a national and international basis. How could we compete? Are they good enough? And if they are, at what level? And look at where we have strength and market that strength, and where we have weakness and where we could draw on other markets and do an exchange. And how we get in to the network which is the direction that the industry is moving. Healthcare is moving into global care. Local networks are becoming a thing of the past. Now they are becoming regional, state, national and international networks where if you need dental surgery you

may find you are having it done in Mexico because it's less expensive and better outcomes. That's the direction the world is going right now. I had a phone call at my office because a medical broker contacted me about Moffitt because there is somebody in Cairo that needs to get in immediately. That's the direction we are moving. By doing this initial Impact Study, what it will do is enable us to sit down at the table with the Governor and with the state and leverage some resources to do marketing activities. Right now Orlando, Miami, Jacksonville are asking for the money and have no science to back up what they have to market and the resources to justify it. We will come to the table with documentation, scientifically put together to verify what we have to offer, how we could compete, what market share we expect to reasonably achieve, and what impact it would have on local and state. That's where we are headed. We hope to have it in place before the end of our fiscal year.

Commissioner Starkey: In Pasco we identified some players that we thought could get involved. We've gone and asked them to work, matching funds to get to our \$25,000. We are half way there. We should have our \$25,000 soon.

Mr. Pumariega: We have met with Manatee County several times and their tourism staff as well and they are working on trying to identify some dollars. Pinellas and Hillsborough County are working toward theirs. It's coming along.

Commissioner Starkey: When do we need to have checks in hand?

Mr. Pumariega: As long as we get them before we have to start paying the consultant. We will bring back the selection of the consultant at the June 8th Council meeting and we will have an agreement in place that we can get signed and then we will go to work. And then there will be interim payments during the summer.

Chair Crist: We asked Pinellas County for \$75,000 and Hillsborough for \$75,000, and Pasco and Manatee Counties each for \$25,000 based on population and budgets of the counties. I heard that your county (Pasco) is moving forward and putting together a package with local money.

Commissioner Starkey: Yes, we've gone to local hospitals and asked them to help.

Chair Crist: Pinellas and Hillsborough have pretty much said that they would play. Up to this point Manatee County has been slow coming forward.

Councilman Roff: We thought about moving forward in that, that this will require more medical transport to have in place, are we thinking about that and having them contribute as well?

Chair Crist: I've shied away from looking at the private sector for funding because this is the phase that we're trying to determine what we have and at what level are we able to compete. I didn't want to have the perception that somebody has a vested interest financially therefore they should be on the list of considerations. At least from the two larger counties. With the smaller counties it would probably be less significant. I have encourage Pinellas and Hillsborough not to do that because we really want this phase to be perceived as objective so you really don't want the possible beneficiaries funding it.

E. ONE BAY Resilient Communities Working Group

Maya Burke provided an update on the ONE BAY Resilient Communities project. The project is funded through the NOAA CREST grant that was awarded last year. Several

things have been going on. One you heard a little bit about which is the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has hosted two events in our region, talking about climate change and infrastructure resilience. We've also been working with the Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel facilitated by the UF/IFAS Extension Sea Grant agent on a regional recommendation for sea level rise protections. We have a meeting coming up in May. I talked to you a meeting or two ago about what happened in February when the DHS was here. They released a report in January that is a technical support document for the Tampa Bay area and then they held a seminar in February to go over the results of that report. There were three key messages that were included in this report. The first is that with regard to data for rainfall in our area, the projections are within our existing range of national variability and so more data will be required to make any sort of real planning efforts about rainfall and how that might change in our area in the future. However, there is a high level of confidence and good data with regard to both temperature and sea level specifically it is probable that we will be hotter, especially in the summer and that we will experience more coastal flooding as our sea level rises. These hazards were then discussed in the context of the impact that they would cause to our critical infrastructure in the Tampa Bay region and we focused on three infrastructure sectors: water, energy, and transportation. There were about 120 participants at this event. They were broken up into small groups and they worked at filling out hazard diagrams from the DHS to give us an idea of how that infrastructure will be affected by rainfall, heat, or sea level.

In March the DHS came back and about 100 people came back again along with some new faces that had participated in the February seminar. That follow up event was held at Eckerd College and focused on sea level rising and heat given that the DHS technical support document identified those were the two climate hazards that are most critical for our area. It's important to us that we focus on good data to support what would be relevant here in the Tampa Bay region. This event was a first for DHS. It featured a game style table top exercise. They created the games specifically for our region and this was part of a pilot program that they are working on to make sure that critical infrastructure throughout the nation is prepared for the potential effects of climate change. The lesson that they learned here in Tampa Bay in this game will be refined and then can be continued to be put to use throughout the country, potentially at a third pilot location – we were the second of three and they had not done the game aspect before, it had just been a conversation previously. The game asked players to evaluate and prioritize different strategies in a simulated budgeting process to address the infrastructure impacts that were highlighted in that seminar in February and the feedback was really positive from the participants and so DHS is pretty excited and we were too.

The Tampa Bay Climate Science Advisory Panel is a group of scientists, academics and representatives from local governments and agencies in our region. They are folks that have intimate and specific knowledge about Tampa Bay and they have strong science backgrounds so they are our regional experts. This is the group that is facilitated by UF/IFAS Extension Sea Grants and over the past 8 months they have been working toward a consensus recommendation for sea level rise projections in our area. The official recommendation is in draft now, but there are three main components. The first part of their recommendation is that you should be using the St. Petersburg tide gauge. That information is included in the report with a link to that kind of data but basically the St. Petersburg tide gauge is in Tampa Bay, it's relevant to all of our communities here in the region so that should be the basis for any sea level rise projection that your community is using for planning purposes. The second component of their recommendations is they recommend a methodology that's used by NOAA. This is different from what a lot of folks have seen before, for example, we've had several presentations from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and they are using a methodology that is not dissimilar but it's not the NOAA methodology, they are using one that's put out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This recommendation from this group is different in that regard so there will be

a learning curve of getting everyone up to speed on what the differences are with the NOAA methodology. The primary difference is the advisory panel felt like the methodology was more robust and better accounted for potential future events such as ice melt and it didn't rely solely on an equation that was developed in the 80s and hadn't really been addressed since then. They felt like the information was more current in the NOAA methodology. Finally, the Science Advisory Panel isn't selecting a particular scenario within that method for your communities to use so they aren't saying you should be using the NOAA High or the NOAA Medium or the NOAA Low, what they're saying is there are perfectly good reasons to use each of these methods, scenarios for different types of projects and we should be aware of the risk tolerance of a piece of critical infrastructure that you are planning for. You should take these things into account and so they will be providing that guidance regarding decision context of what type of scenarios for what type of infrastructure. It won't be one size fits all approach, it will be an effort to help local governments understand what is in the methodology and what their risk profiles are and to be able to tailor a solution that is appropriate.

The details of that recommendation will be featured at our next ONE BAY Working Group meeting scheduled for May 1st at 10:00 a.m. at our facility. We will be talking about the sea level rise recommendation. We will also be providing a preview of the website clearinghouse for Tampa Bay regarding sea level rise research and tools, and we will also be featuring several presentations that highlight best practices to improve resilience of stormwater management infrastructure. I also want to make sure all of you are aware that the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, a partnership between all of the communities along the Gulf of Mexico coast, their climate outreach of practice annual meeting is being held at St. Pete Beach at the Sirata, May 19-21, 2015. They haven't been here since the inception of the climate outreach community practice. If you are interested in attending it is right in our backyard.

Taken out of order:

7. Council Members' Comments

Mr. Dunbar:

This is the cycle time for SWFWMD cooperative funding and annually it runs between \$80-\$85 million. Each of your various jurisdictions, I know Pinellas, Pasco, Manatee have all made applications for water projects that were reviewed by a committee and paid for in this cooperative funding cycle for 2016. For those of you who have applications in I would encourage you to have staff make sure they are there. The one for Tampa Bay is coming up this Thursday – the first of three public hearings. Manatee is also coming up.

Council Member Fridovich:

May 15th, in Gulfport at the Casino we have been asked to host a reception or coffee/get together with Mr. Butts who is the region 4 administrator for the U.S. Small Business Association which covers Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, North & South Carolina, and Tennessee. I will provide Manny with the information so he can distribute that to you. It's quite an opportunity and honor to be asked to host this event.

Ms. Todd:

I hope everyone has on their calendars May 28-29 for the Energy Summit and make sure there is participation from your respective entities. We really need the help from each of you for sponsorships. We want to bring in some students and some neighborhood people and other folks who don't traditionally come to our meetings because we want to get a broader community awareness of what

their options are. And since we are bringing in some Congressional representatives, State representatives and You and discussing what policies we should be sharing with one another and what needs to be done instead of one entity saying we can't do this because there's a law that says we can't. We need to open the discussion as to what can be done policy wise to make the options for Floridians more flexible. Please mark your calendars, and each of you please get us one sponsor.

Chair Crist:

We spoke about this at length before you arrived and we also recognized your hard work and diligence.

Mayor Archie:

We are doing things in Tarpon Springs to modify the docks in terms of some things that we think would help the business community to better be able to market what's happening and to make people realize they can visit Greece without leaving Florida.

F. Solar Ready Florida

Brady Smith provided a report. Solar Ready Florida is our U.S. Department of Energy rooftop solar challenge, Sun Shot initiative. We are working with 9 other regional councils and councils of government from around the country from places like Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, Phoenix, and Kansas City, Missouri looking at issues that we can address that will help to remove barriers to solar PV (photovoltaics – solar panels on the roof) and looking at what barriers to adoptions there are to see what we can do to increase the regional market for solar PV. What we are not doing is addressing the state policy issues. We are however working with our local governments to see if there are best management practices that we can put into place in the Tampa Bay region to help to improve the market for solar. We are currently focused on obtaining information for local government websites about solar PV, the permitting process, and what needs to happen for folks to be able to put solar on their rooftops. Florida, the sunshine state, the third most populous state in the country, the latest numbers are in for 2014 and we were number 20 in terms of solar PV capacity that was installed throughout the state of Florida. Number 20, and we are the 3rd largest state and had the 3rd most solar potential in the country as well. Overall we are around #13 in the country for the amount of solar PV that's been installed throughout the state. Obviously there is room for improvement. What we want to do is make sure at the local government level there aren't any barriers, and we're not finding many barriers at the local government level. Those barriers that are there may be the permitting process, but especially with providing information to implement some of these other solar best management practices that we're working together as a region, at the local government level to make sure that the programs or processes that are in place don't act as a hindrance to help increase the market for solar PV. To that end we had a Solar Finance Workshop here at the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council on February 18th. Our consultant group was present to talk about public and private programs and products that are available that may help with some of these issues especially related to solar financing and they will be back for the Energy Summit on May 28-29. I also spoke with the City of St. Petersburg. Their Council has a committee called the Energy Natural Resources Sustainability Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Darden Rice. I would be happy to speak with any of your commissions or councils about the Solar Ready Florida project. Also, the Department of Energy just approved Phase II of the Solar Ready Florida project and that will run through March 31st, 2016 so we will continue with these coordination efforts with local governments.

Questions & Comments:

Councilman Roff:

I've been reading that on the national level there's a new twist to these solar installations and that people are finding out that they are

entering into long-term leases for installation. They're not realizing what that means. When they are turning around the resale value the home has a lien on it and is requiring large buy-outs. Since we are now in a position where we aren't so completely committed we certainly want to be aware of this problem that's gathering elsewhere, mostly out west. It's presenting a problem for citizens getting away from their home once they installed what they thought was a good deal. Just be aware of that.

- Mr. Smith: We will take that into consideration. At this point you don't see a lot of solar leases in the state of Florida but that's something that could change, certainly one of the proposed constitutional amendments that's out there now would be to improve the market for solar leases. It's something to consider.
- Councilman Roff: It might be something to actually stay away from.
- Council Member Fridovich: A couple of years ago I found some information on You Tube that's called Solar Highways.
- Mr. Smith: Are you talking about the solar roadways projects?
- Council Member Fridovich: Yes. They found they could perfect glass highways that deal with solar and at the same time use LED for lighting. I wonder if we've looked into that. The only question I've ever been able to get is, can you add to a road? In other words, when you repave roads can you "jet" one in if you needed to versus new roads?
- Mr. Smith: I haven't taken a look at that specifically. I have looked at some of the new technologies including solar roadways and what they are talking about is basically putting PV cells over the road surface, drive over them. I don't know of any place in the country where that has been put into place.
- Council Member Fridovich: I think in Idaho.
- Mr. Smith: There are some small test beds, but I think what we are seeing is one of the new technologies that is coming out. It's been around for a little while and we are starting to see some improvements in the technology. A lot of it will depend on the cost of a system and what's the payback period.
- Chair Crist: We have a member of our board from DOT.
- Mr. Farah: We are using some of that technology basically for signalization and sometimes what you see over the interstate. We want to also use it in the communication process where we can utilize it. Mr. Schock could speak better on this issue. I think there are new ways of doing the business and I've had several good conversations about it with him. He is very knowledgeable on this subject. Instead of using the regular method of data collection we would be using solar and phone communication.
- Chair Crist: Tampa Airport has included in their multi-million dollar building initiative the largest solar experiment in the area which is taking the

rooftops of the parking garages and making it solar collectors. It will power all of the electric people movers at the airport, including the new one which will be the super fast people mover that will take you from the existing terminal building all the way out to the new building which will be on Boy Scout in the same amount of time that it takes you to step from baggage claim and auto rental. That was the challenge they had to overcome, how do you move somebody two or three miles in the same time as somebody walking 30 feet.

Mr. Schock:

There are great opportunities for solar and one of the things at the conference that was news to me and surprising was lack of legislation that allows for even the selling of collected energy from solar technology solutions to even local power companies. That was something that even surprised me. From a transportation perspective and DOT perspective the thing that works well with the partnership of the elite is because the roadways and right of ways don't have a lot of trees or overhang that causes a particular issue so there's always that southern exposure available on those roadways to do some level of collection, whether it's in a new building like Tampa International Airport or any of the other airports for that matter in our region as well as along the various roadways. We've done things and implemented things for different types of traffic management. You'll see some of the signage and some of the lighting along the roadways, it's not in critical areas but it is where we need a more definitively reliable service at all times. For example we don't use it for emergency callboxes along the interstate. We do use it for different types of lighting and different types of traffic management such as some of the overhead signage. There are some real great opportunities and given the fact, as Brady said, that we have the 3rd greatest potential in the country for this type of power collection and it seems like a wasted opportunity.

Ms. Todd:

That is exactly one of the major issues that we need to talk about. Everybody is afraid to talk about it. It's a problem. There's no reason in the world why Florida, the sunshine state, and the citizens of this state, shouldn't have access.

Chair Crist:

Let's save all these comments for the Summit that's coming up.

G. Economic Development District

Randy Deshazo provided a brief update. As Mr. Wynne alluded to we've been working with South Florida and Southwest Florida RPCs on an application that has now been submitted to the U.S. Economic Development Administration to secure designation of a manufacturing communities partnership which is a designation that will help our region along with the regions that we are working with to better collaborate with others and help with pushing toward a medical manufacturing corridor. We are doing some work on medical device manufacturing and are working with SW Florida on a survey to reach out to the manufacturers and learn more about their processes and what sort of challenges they face in our region in terms of how we can help them grow the industry as an industrial cluster. Finally, as an Economic Development District we are working with Plant City and the Strawberry Festival to help identify the economic impacts of the festival. We have been doing surveys and studying their bottom line to help identify what the regional economic impact of this well-known festival is.

Commissioner Starkey: Commissioner Long and I serve on the Governing Board of the Industry Certification Training Center – the manufacturing training centers we think we have a role in that.

9. **Other Council Reports - None**
10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Crist**
The next meeting will be held May 11th at 9:30 a.m.

11. **Chair's Report**

I would ask that Commissioner Black, as Chair of the Legislative Committee, to have a meeting within the next two weeks with all of our gubernatorial appointees and come up with a strategy on how to work with the Governor to thwart a veto of the state appropriation. For the last four years we fought hard to get money into the budget to assist us with what we do and the Governor has vetoed each year. We need to talk about what would be the best method to get in to see the Governor, to educate the Governor and to try and find out what we need to do to ensure that what the legislature has listed what they think is the right thing to do remains in the budget. We were looking at meeting at our regular time 10:00 a.m. on Monday, April 27th. This is important because we have one shot, it's coming up in May, and we need to be ready for that. The meeting will have to be noticed.

We will not have a Council meeting on May 11th, however we will be having the Executive/Budget Committee meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Rygiel: Regarding the April 27th meeting, the Governor has a dinner scheduled for new appointees. I'll be there and will be happy to bring a message.

Chair Crist: Is it scheduled for that day (April 27th)? We need to have our meeting before that day so they can be delivering a message, perhaps in the form of a letter signed by all of you.

Mr. Neal: I don't think a Governor's Appointee exists on this committee to lobby the Governor for money. It seems like a mistake to go to the Governor with a single purpose of asking for more money. Don't you think it would be more beneficial if you could ask for something more than just money? I wouldn't sign that letter myself.

Chair Crist: Having been an elected official for 25 years and having done a lot of appointments during that time, the purpose of the appointments is to have an eyes and ears presence and involved and engaged with the board or authority that you put them on. So you're here representing the Governor and you need to be able to bring information back to him. He needs to understand what is taking place here as being his eyes and ears. What we are going to be asking is that you go back and explain to the Governor what we want it for. You're not going to be asking for the money, the legislature is already asking for the money, you're going to say, this is what it's going to be used for and what can we do to better serve your vision? Right now we're trying to get from him an idea of what he would like for us to do so that we can incorporate it into our agenda. For whatever reason we are having a difficult time getting in the door and getting that message delivered. We're not asking you to ask for money, we're asking you to let the Governor know what we're doing, why we're doing it, and how we're doing it.

Mr. Neal: I agree with that. It didn't sound like that.

Chair Crist: I do appreciate you bringing that up. I would have felt the same way.

Mr. Sebesta: I agree with you but we need to bring a message up to him and what I mentioned last year I didn't know – the TBRPC is a fantastic organization. But we all have to remember that we are coupled to the other 10 RPCs so we need to get our message to the Governor, how that works out in the budgeting is up to the Governor whether he vetoes again or not. But we need to give our message of the TBRPC and let him make his decisions. I agree with you – we're just sending a message. Draft a letter, this is what we stand for, we obviously want the Governor's support for the TBRPC but he's looking at the other 10 RPCs with his budgeting process.

Chair Crist: Every year we have turned up the gas and this year we are running at full throttle compared to 10 years ago and we're doing more than being a think tank, we are being pro-active. We are actually engaging issues that are important to all of us here and we are discussing things that are really relevant to the state. The Governor needs to understand what we are doing. He can't expect every one of us in here to knock on his door. We have to rely on his eyes and ears that are sitting at the table.

Mr. Sebesta: I just want to make sure that everyone is aware, he may not have a personal problem with TBRPC. It may be other regions and other issues. We just have to give our message to him so he can make that decision.

Chair Crist: Thank you for bringing that up. That's what we're all about, being able to talk freely and work things out.

12. Executive Director's Report – Mr. Manny Pumariega - None

Next Meeting: Monday, June 8, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 12:01 p.m.



Victor Crist, Chair



Lori Denman, Recording Secretary