



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard #100 · Pinellas Park, FL 33782

727.570.5151 Ext. 40

<http://www.tbrpc.org/abm>

MEETING MINUTES

Legislative Review Committee

April 14, 2022

2:00 - 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

1. Call To Order / Welcome

Alana Todd called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

2. Introductions/Attendance

Present:

Alana Todd, TBRPC

Wren Krahl, TBRPC

Jessica Lewis, TBEP

Mandy Newman, TBEP

Dan Fitz-Patrick, Manatee Port Authority

Lindsey Cross, Florida Conservation Voters

Shawn Deutscher, Gulfstream Natural Gas

Natasha Dickrell, Pinellas County

Hank Hodde, Pinellas County

Marie Bourgeois, USF College of Public Health

Sam Jenkins

Kelly Thomas, City of St. Pete

Paul Boudreaux, Stetson College

JP Brooker, Ocean Conservancy

Justin Tramble, Tampa Bay Waterkeepers

Rene Brown, Pasco County

Keith Nadaskay, Mosaic

Sally Thompson, Tampa Bay Conservancy

Tanya Vomacka, Concerned Citizen

Chris Pratt, Hillsborough EPC

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this meeting, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council at (727) 570-5151 Ext. 10 within three working days of the meeting.

Kyle Dost, UF

Diego Guerra, Hillsborough Planning Commission

Zack Sampson, Tampa Bay Times

Micheal Perry, City of St. Pete

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. 2022 Bill Tracking Update

The LR Committee reviewed the status of [Bay-related bills](#) from the 2022 Legislative Session. [Link to presentation](#)

Bill Discussion:

SB 882- Inventory of critical wetlands to then consider purchasing through the land Acquisition Trust Fund. Landowners have been supportive since by getting wetlands on a priority/critical list before being sold, land value goes up for land-owner/meant to make the appraisal higher on properties with wetlands. The factors for establishing priority have included proximity to development, ecological value of wetland (physical and biological components), effect of wetland on water quality and flood mitigation, ecosystem restoration value, and susceptibility of wetland to development.

Habitat Restoration Consortium identified the need to create a list of land in need of protection around Tampa Bay. Consultants and developers often ask for a list of areas to protect and/or restore, so a list may be helpful even if it is used for financial reasons among some actors.

There is a need for SWFWMD to participate in these meetings to identify how they will implement the SB 882, proposing a value/ranking on wetlands and where they should fall on the list. This bill does not require rule making, and governing board can substitute an annual strategic plan for this. Takes effect July 1, water management districts must complete an annual report, which is something they are already doing. Alana to ask SWFWMD to speak at next meeting on portions in Central Florida, I-4 corridor - Pasco and Eastern Hillsborough.

SB 224 – Helps to reduce cigarette Butts on Beaches, which is a plastics problem. The Ocean Conservancy is working with local governments to provide resources for implementation once a law has been passed. One possibility is for this committee to compile model ordinances, which JP Brooker is interested in contributing to. Another potential action item for this committee is to host a presentation (provided by Ocean Conservancy?) for barrier islands that will have to implement this law, if passed.

HB 7053 – This year SB 1940 establishes the Office of Resiliency; an important component of the bill is the listing of critical assets that need to be incorporated into a vulnerability assessment and nature-based assets are included. DEP is in process of creating scoring criteria for future proposals for planning and infrastructure improvements. Not many points include nature-based solutions currently, which is of interest to this committee.



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Bills to keep an eye on for next year: seagrass mitigation banks, phosphate bill (need for more accountability and transparency considering 2 dozen + phosphogypsum stacks throughout the state), public financing for at-risk structures (builds on bill from several years ago), resilience-related bills (such as shifting to renewable energy and reducing root causes).

Passed: SB 1426- Water Quality Enhancement Areas – mitigation for stormwater led by Polk & Lakeland County; these counties are developing so rapidly that they have a need to maintain stormwater treatment for NPDES permits, but they do not have the money to build and improve stormwater systems. This bill will enable for-profit businesses to create stormwater treatment areas and sell credits to the county to allow more development to happen. Need to watch closely to see how this is implemented.

SB 1210 would provide the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection with exclusive decision-making authority over local pollution control programs evaluating pollutants and contaminants on agricultural lands that have been approved for conversion to nonagricultural use. The name of this bill changed. This is a preemption bill originating from Miami-Dade who wanted stricter requirements for developing former agricultural land because of pesticide contamination. Potentially makes development of these lands less costly for landowners and developers. This bill is more proactive and protective of environmental and human health.

This is an interest by the Waterkeeper to enhance education on the impacts of PFAS substances, and to help barrier islands implement SB 224 (Regulation of Smoking in Public Places) with the Ocean Conservancy.

SB 620 LOCAL BUSINESS PROTECTION ACT - Authorizes businesses that have been in operation for at least three years to claim business damages from a county or municipality if the county or municipality enacts or amends certain ordinances or charter provisions that lead to a loss of 15% or more in revenues. Local government business act: Limits ability to do proactive excises for previous ordinances in the county. It grandfathers ordinances in. The bill can be used to prevent counties from amending as an amended ordinance would no longer get the grandfather protection, thus the entire ordinance would become susceptible to litigation by businesses. This bill fundamentally impacts the ability of local governments to be proactive. Will likely impede:

- Lighting ordinances
- Sea turtles
- Noise pollution ordinances
- Waste management and stormwater
- Clean Air efforts
- Started as a county Puppy mills ordinance but much broader

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There is a need to better quantify environmental and social services for inclusion in ROI estimates, which will help to counter economic/financial losses. The TBRPC's 2014 Economic Valuation report has been useful in demonstrating the value of proactive action and cost of inaction, and this report has been cited by many.

5. 2023 Legislative Session Dates

The Committee reviewed pertinent dates for anticipated Special Sessions and the 2023 Legislative Session.

Refer to last slide of the [PowerPoint](#)

6. Committee Next Steps

The Committee discussed strategic planning goals from the [previous meeting](#) to establish priority actions for this year that align with the next Legislative Session. Participants will also review committee recruitment and nominate potential committee leadership members.

Focus on member recruitment & building the committee, strengthening our knowledge of the legislative process, tracking bills, and exploring community outreach and education

Idea: AICP credits for free/can get interns to help track bills

What can we do to help you as this committee? What is the role of this committee?

- Need diversity of committee members
- More presence in Tallahassee as the ABM-to speak for certain environmental legislation-invest time in Tally to help amend bills
- Need to give lobbyist/fac/league of cities/elected officials to tell them what they need to lobby for. Guidance from a group like this to provide guidance for the internal ask for legislation among electeds.
- It's helpful to hear arguments from opponents / proponents on bills - to improve or kill a half-baked bill.
- More transparent with communities/Communities can benefit from the knowledge
 - Track. Translate bills, make transparent-share info to public
 - Trickle down to local citizens
 - Outreach and education
- Invite lobbyist to attend meetings? Lindsey recommends smaller meeting with lobbyist before public meeting to discuss legislation of interest
 - Build the committee across all sectors including lobbyists

There is a need to better understand what is needed for legislation compliance and the interaction between state and federal level laws.

- National Caucus of Environmental Legislators might be a good resource.

It would be helpful to build a library of local ordinances for local governments.

- If the library is dynamic, it can help guide new ordinances based on state preemptions and other limitations. It would need to be maintained based on what is emerging from the Federal and State government. Updating ordinances to reflect new State legislation preemptions

Ideas for getting the library started:

- Organize by subject matter
- Identify unified methodologies
- Use graduate Interns to build
- How do we formally accept or reject ordinances?
 - Will discuss further

The next meeting agenda will include a discussion of leadership positions.

7. Announcements

TBEP has an Earth Day event

Wednesday, April 20th- 12th anniversary of Deepwater Horizon

[Resilient Ready Project](#) – charrettes begin next week; a half-day symposium will be held on June 23rd at the Tampa River Center([registration link](#))

Dan Fitz-Patrick extended an invitation to see the Port of Manatee

8. Other Items

- a. Next Meeting date
 - July 14, 2022; 2 PM - virtual
- b. Bay Soundings article ideas

9. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 4 PM