Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

# Council Minutes

August 13, 2007
9:30 a.m.

**REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT**
Chair, Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Vice Chair, Vice Mayor Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Secretary/Treasurer, Reverend James T. Golden, City of Bradenton
Past Chair, Mr. Robert Kersteen, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Ms. Jane Bittner, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Mayor Larry Bustle, City of Palmetto
Council Member Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey
Vice Mayor Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Commissioner Ronnie Duncan, Pinellas County
Mayor Ward Friszolowski, City of St. Pete Beach
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Commissioner Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Council Member Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater
Commissioner Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Manatee County
Mr. Charles Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pasco County
Mr. Philip Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Councilman Earnest Williams, City of St. Petersburg
Commissioner Robert Worthington, Alt., City of Gulfport
Mr. Mike Farley, Ex-officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Kent Fast, Alt., Ex-officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

**REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT**
Commissioner Gigi Arntzen, City of Largo
Commissioner Rose Ferlita, Hillsborough County
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Dr. Lois Gerber, Gubernatorial Appointee, Manatee County
Commissioner James McCormick, City of Safety Harbor
Mr. Andy Núñez, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Ms. Kim Vance, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida

**OTHERS PRESENT**
Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County

Joanne McClellan, Planning Liasion, SWFWMD
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Rene Vincent, Planning & Zoning Director, City of Tarpon Springs
Charlie Attarde, Business Services, City of Tarpon Springs
Kathleen Monahan, Director, Dept. of Cultural & Arts Services, City of Tarpon Springs
Kevin Ashley, Planner, Engelhardt Hammer
Bob Klute, Asst. Com. Dev. Director, City of Largo
Todd Pokrywa, SMR, VP Planner, Schroeder Manatee Ranch
Richard Stiles, Sr. Associate, Grimail Crawford
Derin Parks, Attorney, Grimes Goebel et al
Al & Cindy Davis, Gulfport (Citizens) Water Watch

**STAFF PRESENT**
Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Ms. Lori Denman, Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Wren Krahl, Manager of Administration/Public Information
Mr. Bill Lofgren, Principal Planner
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Mr. Mike Spina, Senior Planner
Ms. Jessica White, Senior Planner
Ms. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

**Call to Order** - Chairman Black
The regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chairman Black on August 13, 2007 at 10:12 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Mr. Robert Kersteen, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

A welcome back was provided to Gubernatorial Appointees Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Mr. Andy Nunez, Mr. Charles Waller and Ms. Kim Vance; and a welcome was provided to new Gubernatorial Appointee Ms. Jane Bittner.

**Roll Call** - Recording Secretary
A quorum was present. There were no voting conflicts.

Chairman Black pointed out the Amended Agenda, due to Item #9 being moved forward to Item #6.B. and additional material that was provided under Item 8.E. Legislative Committee. The additional material is FRCA's Framework for Florida's Planning Reform: Connecting Planning to Visioning.

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Chairman Black

The minutes from the July 9, 2007 meeting were approved. (Mariano/von Hahmann)

2. **Budget Committee** -Chairman Black
The Financial Report for the period ending 6/30/07 was approved. (von Hahmann/Mariano)

3. **Consent Agenda** - Chairman Black
Item #3.E. Notice of Proposed Change Report - DRI #216, University Lakes/Phase 4, Manatee County, was pulled from the Consent Agenda. A revised Page 6 of the report reflects revisions to the project impact percentages associated with one of the Tables in the Report. This item was moved to Agenda Item #4 and will be considered at that time.

- IC&R #206, Hillsborough County MPO 2025 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment.
- IC&R # 207, Sarasota/Manatee MPO 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan Amendment.
- IC&R # 218, Pinellas County MPO FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program.
- Annual Report Summary DRI # 93 – Lake Brandon, RYs 2004-06, Hillsborough County
- Annual Report Summary DRI # 95 – Wingate Creek Mine, RY 2006-07, Manatee County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI # 97 – St. Petersburg Intown Areawide, RY 2006-07, St. Petersburg.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #105 – Sunforest, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #115 – Woodland Corporate Center, RY 2005-06, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #140 – Tampa Triangle, RY 2005-06, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #163 – Cannon Ranch, RY 2006-07, Pasco County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #170 – Westfield Citrus Park Mall, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #191 – Fishhawk Ranch, RY 2005-06, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #195 – Gateway Areawide, RY 2006-07, St. Petersburg.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #208 – The Crescent, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #216 – University Lakes, RY 2006-07, Manatee County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #226 – Busch Gardens Substantial Deviation, RY 2006-07, Tampa.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #240 – Heritage Harbour, RY 2006-07, Manatee County.
- Annual Report Summary DRI #245 – Big Bend Transfer Company, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendment Report DCA # 07-1(1), Pasco County.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendment Report DCA # 07-1, Bradenton.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendment Report DCA # 07ER, Now Port Richey.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Adopted Amendment Report DCA # 07-1, Largo.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendment Report DCA # 07-2, Tampa.
- Local Government Comprehensive Plan Proposed Amendment Report DCA # 07-2AR, Largo.

The Consent Agenda was approved. (von Hahmann/Duncan)

4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)**
Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Report DRI # 216 – University Lakes/Phase 4, Manatee County was pulled from the Consent Agenda. Page 6 of the report reflects revisions to the project impact percentages associated with one of the tables in the report.

Motion to approve staff report, with revision. (Duncan/von Hahmann)

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

6. **A. One Bay/Reality Check Tampa Bay Update**
Ms. Amy McGuire, Project Manager for One Bay, provided an update on the May 18th, 2007 Reality Check Tampa Bay event. Over 1,000 individuals expressed an interest and because of

limited space, 322 participants were chosen. Of those 322, 311 actually participated. We had a diverse group from all seven counties, representing the public, private and the community not-for-profit sector. There were 800 luncheon participants who voted on the guiding principals. Guiding principals were determined by each table. Those people were charged with deciding what is important to you as a community. As we grow, what would you look for? Transportation, multi-modal transit was at every table. About 311 people said that was a priority. Preserving natural spaces, preserving our green spaces was also a priority. In addition, people looked toward the city centers. We learned how to build scenarios. We also felt we had a community that was engaged, enthused and ready to move forward. There are about 93 separate visioning plans out there so we saw Reality Check as an opportunity to pull some of those together and learn from some of those other visioning plans to enable the opportunity to develop one for the seven county region.

The prioritized guiding principles were reviewed. About 820 people came to the lunch and using the Collaborative Labs voting system, they voted in the following way:

1. Create a sense of place.
2. Maximize mobility using multi-modal transportation.
3. Preserve natural systems, emphasizing connectivity and sustainable water supplies.
4. Balance jobs and housing for affordable quality of life.
5. Strengthen economic development.
6. Sustain the role of agriculture.

Ms. McGuire showed visuals in her presentation, which can be viewed at: www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm

The One Bay vision is to *Create a shared regional vision to guide projected growth in land use, transportation and environmental preservation.* As we move forward the vision admission of One Bay is to gain community input. How do we reach thousands and thousands in the next 6-8 months? We have a lot of communication tools doing that. We will be developing a questionnaire, we will be using multi-modal web and have commitments from some of the newspapers, radio and television that will help get the word out. The Executive Committee is helping lead the cause and direction.

Regional sessions are being scheduled in each of the counties. We are planning one or two in those counties and are inviting the same groups, except deeper. We are working with neighborhood associations and we have a "webinar" coming up with neighborhood managers who we believe have their fingers on all the folks out there.

The first 100 days will be up on August 26th. During this time we did our data compilation and technical analysis. Phase II starts in September 2007 - December 2007 and will be the first round in getting input from the community. That will be brought back in Phase III, January 8 - June 2008 and hopefully have one or two models that we will be able to take even deeper throughout the seven county region to test them. The web site is: www.myonebay.com

Questions & Comments:

Commissioner von Hahmann: I want to thank the Tampa Bay Partnership for stepping up to do this regional visioning process. In our Legislative Committee meeting this morning we talked about trying to develop a framework that we could take to the state for regional visioning through the Council. I think you

provided us the opportunity should that go forward.

Ms. McGuire: Thank you, it was definitely a group effort. That is the type of item that you are talking about with your Legislative Committee that we are looking to help compliment. We are doing all this research for very specific reasons, but also for others. I think legislation is one of the key priorities.

Commissioner Worthington: Was any consideration taken regarding high flood areas and areas that are typically in the flood zone areas? I noticed that a lot of your maps reflected a lot of growth around those areas.

Ms. McGuire: We did and we had a guidebook that ended up being 65-70 pages long. We tried to get people as much data as we could, but they only had 2 ½ hours to complete the exercise so some of that was a lack of knowledge on their part. Many of our scribes were expert planners and tried to help them.

Councilor Matthews: I would like to know what you have on your web site.

Ms. McGuire: Right now we have all 24 of the tables, and starting in October, once we have the 4 scenarios they will be on the web site with questions that can be commented on. Many of you may recall the My Region effort that they did in Central Florida. I believe that 97% of the individuals said no to the current status quo (that's what they called their trend). We will have all of that so people can provide input. We will also be doing mailings. We have been talking about trying to set up webinars or some type of controlled log. We just need to figure out the technology.

Reverend Golden: One of the television stations in the bay area does a "Our Tampa Bay" public service announcements. Is it possible that we could raise public awareness, if not through that station, then through other stations like Bay News 9? Have them talk about One Bay or put the web site on the screen to draw attention?

Ms. McGuire: We just reached out a few weeks ago to all the communication directors in each of the counties and major cities to ask them how we can work with their pubic access television or radio. That is a part of our plan as we move into mid to late September so that people can start to participate. Our goal would be to have the community outreach just to extend into October. In looking at national benchmarks you have to have a shut down date. Stop the community input and go back and massage it. We are looking to have that done before the holidays and then spend time re-evaluating that.

**B.** ***Celebrating Tampa Bay* - City of Tarpon Springs**

Commissioner Saenger introduced the City of Tarpon Springs, a city with a strong Greek contingency. Tarpon Springs is also the oldest municipality in the county and has the most shoreline with the bayous and springs. Commissioner Saenger introduced Rene Vincent, head of the Planning Department; and Charlie Attardo, Business Service Specialist who will be sharing the city's CRA and other aspects of growth and development. Also introduced was Dr. Kathy Monahan, Cultural Service Director, who will share cultural treasures and fine tune what the city has to offer.

Mr. Attardo provided a presentation on the Tarpon Springs Downtown Development Action Plan. The Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) represents a microcosm of redevelopment

in the area. We don't have open spaces so we need to look at redevelopment. The "Plan" originated in 2000 as a city manager initiative. We had a lot of public participation and came up with three primary recommendations: Establish a CRA within the city; connect the "2" downtowns; and improve tourism. This is important to the city as the city gets older and needs to attract more of its primary industry. So we are going to improve tourism and we are looking at product services, ecotourism, economic success. As you bring more business into the community you bring more tourists.

The CRA is about 226 acres and it takes into consideration the Anclote River in the north, down south through historic downtown, and the Pinellas Trail runs the entire length of the city throughout the CRA. The east/west corridor is 3 blocks including Tarpon Avenue, and it runs from US 19 to Alternate 19.

The concept was built around historic downtown. It's dynamic and needs to have long term community support. It includes affected areas around the CRA. The CRA is an entity in and of itself, but is actually a catalyst to what it can do with redevelopment. The redevelopment plan is broken up into five districts.

District One: Northern Gateway, around the Anclote River. We look at this area as a possible hotel and recreation space. We have new townhouses built in this area.

District Two: The "Bridge" is considered a vital link between historic downtown and the sponge dock. Primarily a lot of infrastructure and redevelopment will need to be done in this area to attract more businesses and to make this area more walkable. A trolley has been purchased to connect these areas.

District Three: Historic Downtown, the spring bayou area. We don't intend to promote a lot in that area except to perhaps get a few more Bed and Breakfasts.

District Four: Spring Bayou is what we consider our eastern gateway and it is very important within the CRA. Tarpon Avenue runs down the middle of this district. Even more important is the border along Lemon Street and the Pinellas Trail because that adds tremendous redevelopment and development potential and relatively speaking, a lot of open space in that area. We have developer interest that we are sure will take place.

District Five: Southern Gateway. We need to spruce this area up and invite more businesses into the area.

We've gone a long way since 2001. The city is in the midst of a $20 million project with the Florida Department of Transportation that takes place almost exclusively within the CRA to enhance streets, new sidewalks, new brick accent pavers, new asphalting, new historic lighting. We will be planting over 400 trees and low level shrubbery. This plan speaks to our redevelopment plan and what we intend to do within the CRA.

As we go through the third year process we have to keep in mind there are two important aspects of this plan. The city's CRA Plan is a plan adopted by ordinance by the city, and by resolution of the county. Secondly, the concept is dynamic and can change, but before we make changes to this plan we have to give it some strong consideration because a lot of time, effort and input went into its evolution.

When we started the appraised value to the base 256 acres was only about $41 million and the

first year, 2001, we have about $43,000 in taxing and financing. Six years later the value of that area has increased more than double to over $85 million and the tax and financing has grown ten-fold. We expect that trust fund to go up to over a half million next year. We are using almost all of the trust fund money right now for the project.

Rene Vincent said that as the CRA goes forward there are implementation challenges. The biggest thing the city is fighting is insufficient density and intensity. If you are familiar with Tarpon Springs you know that many of the buildings are historic structures. If something happened and one had to be torn down you wouldn't be able to rebuild under those density/intensity scenarios. You would need at least a floor area ratio of a 2.0 to accommodate rebuilding some of those buildings. That is our first challenge and doesn't really support redevelopment. Also, our existing zoning and land development code regulations are based on old suburban standards with no design requirements, it supports the automobile instead of the pedestrian, and does not support mixed use. In order to deal with these challenges we are in the process of developing a second Special Area Plan, a term that comes out of Pinellas County Countywide Plan Rules for the Future Land Use Map. The plan will incorporate a multi-model transportation district, the existing downtown redevelopment plan, and a new regulating document (a parallel code to be adopted within the land development code) just for the CRA.

The Multi-modal Transportation District (MMTD) is necessary to address proposed increases of density and intensity. We have two state maintained roadways (US Alternate 19 and Tarpon Avenue) that are operating at a failing level of service. When we started going down the path of wanting increase of density and intensity the first thing we ran into is how to satisfy transportation concurrency. We have been working with a consultant to enter the state statutes of developing a multi-modal transportation district. The draft resource document has been completed and the goals, objectives & policies will be adopted into the transportation element and comprehensive plan. We are scheduled for presentation to the MPO in October 2007. The plan creates levels of service standards for pedestrian, bicycle, and transit. We are in a constrained situation in that we can't add roads, we can't add lanes, but we can improve those other alternative modes of transportation and be able to add on the density and intensity. We also hope to be able to use the proportionate fair share ordinance to include pedestrian, bicycle and transit facilities. Right now it is simply limited to roads. The MMTD boundary is larger than the CRA and overlaps the CRA a little. The proposed density/intensity increases of the regulating plan will only focus on the CRA.

The Regulating Plan (CRA Overlay District) should be designated as a Community Redevelopment District (CRD) on the countywide Future Land Use Map. It needs to be a parallel code. Existing zoning and land use will stay in place. We have a lot of constituents in the CRA that were hesitant about abandoning what they have had and known for years for something relatively new to them. We are trying to allow them to keep that at their current density/intensity but then this alternative plan which will allow additional density/intensity will also be available, subject to some criteria.

We are looking to increase density/intensity and what that would be in exchange for is with scheduled improvements to the multi-modal transportation district and adherence to the form-based code standards. The form-based code that we are basing our overlay district on is the Smartcode which utilizes Transect Zones instead of Zoning Districts and focuses on mixed use in all districts, but with varying degrees of intensity and it very much promotes livable walkable communities.

Questions & Comments:

Ms. Kinsler: I live close to Tarpon Springs and have had the opportunity to visit the city. I find it difficult to get around when you are trying to look at all the places to see. What are you doing to make that easier? Also, in terms of encouraging residential folks to come in to expand the area and growth, what are you doing in that area?

Ms. Vincent: In terms of getting around, we very much recognize that we need to probably do a Comprehensive Way Finding, especially between the downtown and sponge docks. Then you have side streets, and the businesses are also clamoring for that because if you are on Tarpon Avenue you may not know that you can go one block off and find other businesses. That is something we are looking at especially since we are redoing our sign code to allow a comprehensive way finding system.

The second question, what are we doing to get more residential development? That is a big part of the overlay district that we are proposing. Right now, just by comparison, if you can go out somewhere and build at 15 units per acre on bare land versus 15 units per acre in the downtown where you may be doing redevelopment - you're not going to choose downtown. Right now there isn't enough density to attract someone to come in and take a chance on those areas. That's a big part of the MMTD in conjunction with our overlay district.

Mr. Attardo: I would say that increases the 15 up to 30 reward per acre, based on certain incentives like workforce housing. That will encourage workforce and moderate income housing, even downtown, and also gives the developer the incentive to proceed. On the transportation issue, we are coming close to looking at a new east/west corridor in the city that will be the only east/west corridor that connects US 19 with the Gulf.

Ms. Kinsler: Tarpon Springs is considered the Old Folks Town. What are you doing to encourage young folks to move into the area?

Mr. Attardo: We have about 700 housing units under construction and those 700 housing units go from over $1 million on Anclote River down to the range of $250,000-$500,000.

Ms. Vincent: Some quick numbers based on the potential build out under the MMTD out to 2025. We project to add at least 7,000 jobs which means younger people. Hopefully it is all going to come together.

Dr. Monahan, Cultural Services Director, provided a presentation on the Arts & Cultural Treasures of Tarpon Springs. She has worked with the city for 25 years and stated arts and historical preservation are the main focus of her work. Both are essential to the city's long range planning and they serve as a sense of place.

Tarpon Springs has always been concerned about preserving its groups, as an arts city, as a Greek community, and as a historical community. It is the oldest incorporated municipality in Pinellas County, and that was done in 1887.

We now have a Cultural Treasures program, which goes back to our Centennial in 1987 where we ended up moving City Hall out of the old classic Georgian Colonial building in the center of downtown to another historic building, the old Tarpon Springs High School. We are very good at recycling our old

buildings and in May 1987 we had all the offices moved from the old City Hall over to the old high school. We had to find a new function for the old city hall and the city manager at that time came up with the idea of the museum. We received state grant money to help match city funds to restore, adapt and reuse which became a cultural center that has gallery space and a small theater. We also established the Main Street program at that time.

Dr. Monahan stated a lot of economic impact studies have been done on the arts and economic disparity and according to the Americans for the Arts, America's Non Profits Arts & Cultural industry generates $166.2 billion in economic activity every year. In going for the arts & cultural and heritage preservation we are not only creating a sense of place, but helping to develop economic activity in our downtown.

We started Cultural Treasures with the one building and we now have space where the old auditorium was in the old high school. We went for state funding to get some cultural affairs as well as historic preservation money to do another adaptive reuse and now we have Tarpon Springs Performing Arts Center. From there we went on to having donated, the oldest house in Tarpon Springs which housed our founder. We used that property to leverage state funding so we didn't have to put any dollars into the building with city funds, but matched with the value of the building and brought in some state funding to preserve that house and turn it into a historical house museum. That is another economic draw for tourism in our area. The library was moved downtown which created more economic activity and other businesses grew up around it, and other buildings were restored. But then we had a vacant building on the bayou so that became our Heritage Museum which houses the history of Tarpon Springs. You can walk through the house and see videos. We have a large print of Christopher Still, replicas of which you can see in Tallahassee in the House of Representatives. We are fortunate that Christopher Still is a resident of Tarpon and has been very generous to us.

FDOT has given the city the historical railroad depot and with FDOT funds we restored that building and it now houses our historical society collection and is the information center for downtown. The new library holds a large painting by Christopher Still. So the arts have united with historic preservation to generate economic activity in the downtown making a liveable city and technically you can walk to all of them.

Probably the most exciting thing to us right now is the leadership of Commissioner Saenger. We now have a public arts ordinance and that will kick in during the next fiscal year. We also have a new website for our Cultural Treasures Program: www.tarponarts.org. We call them cultural treasures because they are. This summer we had a production of Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat where we brought in over 2000 people in the summer. A lot of those people ate in our restaurants so it is a winner all of the time.

We are currently putting together a packet for Realtors. Most Realtors don't realize we have these beautiful amenities and they are selling points for bringing people in.

Questions & Comments:

Chairman Black: You have a beautiful community and one of the things I like to do as a city commissioner to get ideas is to go and see what is being done in other communities. I would encourage each of you to do the same. Take little field trips and get some ideas and see what is working in some of the communities.

Commissioner Kynes: What is your main criteria on your public arts ordinance? We are

developing ours and I know you really helped us. What is the main criteria of the money from the development?

Dr. Monahan: We have not done a project yet. We just enacted the ordinance. At this point, once we get our board set, we will actually have a public board for this public arts committee which will discuss areas with our city commission where we are looking for public art. There will be two focuses. One, where a developer would like to have public art on that particular property he is developing and then that would go through guidelines that would be set up by that committee. The other option would be to put a percentage of money for public art into a public art fund. At that point we would have a list of where we would be interested in having public art activities.

Commissioner Saenger: Initiatives that are exempt include Habitat for Humanity and non-profit housing and so are private homes. Other than that, any business that comes into Tarpon Springs to develop, 1% of their total budget goes into a public arts fund and we set this up like Clearwater because theirs was excellent. So 1% of the total budget could go onsite in the project and it has to be in the public, not in a board room or cafeteria. It has to be on property somewhere that is easily accessible to the public. Or, .75% of the budget can go into an arts fund and that will be expended under the supervision of the public arts committee and the commission and city manager also have an eye on that. We are all working together to see places throughout the city that might make a good art trail to help further the sponge docks to the downtown. We also have in the city, one of our unknown treasures is that we have the largest collection of George Ennis Jr.'s artwork, the American landscape painter, at the Unitarian Universalist Church and those were donated to the church. As long as the church holds services we are able to have those paintings in our possession. George Ennis has his winter residence in the city. The Universalist Church is an important cultural aspect of the early development of Tarpon Springs.

7. **Council Members' Comments** - Chairman Black

Commissioner Worthington: I would like to report that in June of this year I took part in the Envisioning The Future of Coastal Management Summit that was held in Rookery Bay Preserve, Marco Island. This was sponsored by NOAA and the Coastal States Organization in conjunction with the Florida DEP, and representatives from the Governor's office. The object of this was to provide input to develop legislative proposals to Congress to improve coastal management and water issues. The meeting was the single opportunity for all of the Southeast United States in a series of 7 meetings nationwide, from Guam to Puerto Rico. The invitations were extended to elected and appointed officials, state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations and private citizens. Gulfport had the single elected official from all of the Southeast United States, which was kind of disheartening. We also had citizens from Gulfport Water

Watch participate. The workshop was conducted throughout the day with presentations and discussions by the host agencies and participants. As the report was finalized they came up with drafts, charts and numbers. We worked together to put the major issues in a bullet form. Stormwater management is the primary challenge to all investors. This covers the entire U.S. and issues that are near and dear to us. Another issue is the lack of habitat restoration and lack of coordination and communication between governmental agencies and officials. Several taxpayer funded unelected agencies and officials influence water and environmental policy with no direct accountability to voters.

Handouts of the report were made available to Council members.

Council Member Williams: The upcoming Special Session - as most of you are aware of the fact that PIP (Personal Injury Protection) will be expiring in October unless it is re-authorized. My concern is the fact that the consumer protection area that many of the individuals driving on our streets, the only insurance they have as it relates to medical insurance is that PIP. The problem that it will create is the issue of going to the hospital, the ER care, indigent care which can cost quite a bit of money and we look at the county often to help out with some of those funds. As you all well know with the tight constraint of the budget issues it will be problematic. I don't know if it is appropriate or not for this body, and I talked with our Chairman briefly about this, to encourage the Governor to ask, as part of the Special Session, to try to deal with the sunset issue. I am bringing this before this body to see if it is the appropriate venue to even suggest that.

Chairman Black: It is interesting how it relates to municipal government. I'm concerned about abuses that are a part of the PIP. It does affect our local obligations for indigent care. Also, some other things to think about are - yes you will get a savings on your PIP but it may also make your bodily injury liability go up if there isn't PIP any longer. I have constituents in my city where this is their only health insurance and if they are in an auto accident it is good to have that. I have also had situations where it has been the only life insurance that they have had, as well as lost wages.

Commissioner von Hahmann: I agree with you. One of my insurors already sent me a letter about this. I see that there is a chance for us to see more indigent care since our county is a provider. What I'm questioning is - they established a Special Session , if they add to it don't they have to give so much notice? I know they can't go into the session and then agree to make this a part of it. Does anyone know? What is the protocol for adding an item to the special session?

Mr. Conn: The Governor could add to the call at any time, even during the session if you want to expand the call.

Chairman Black: Commissioner von Hahmann is the Chair of our Legislative Committee and we will be hearing from her in a few moments. This would be something that would need to be looked at in terms of our Legislative

Committee.

Council Member Williams: When does the Special Session begin?

Mr. Pumariega: September 15th or 16th.

Chairman Black: I would think it would be appropriate to send a letter just stating our concerns about what this could do with our local indigent care responsibilities and for that to be considered whether or not the Governor makes the call to include that in the Special Session.

Commissioner Mariano: One item that kind of goes along with this, and I think it is appropriate as being an economic issue for the Council as well. Recently I was at a National Association of Counties and I did a presentation on the National CAT Fund which a lot of our representatives sponsor and it is really moving in the House of Representatives. We are not getting a lot of action in the Senate though. Recently we had Senator Nelson come to town and he talked about how he thought the President was holding them back. Congressman Bilirakis' office said he isn't holding it back, he just isn't taking a position on it either way. Politically, having looked at the numbers of Katrina - the numbers show that the average taxpayer had to pay in $810 per federal tax return. This is a national issue. Senator Nelson has 6 bills with Senator Martinez. One of these passed through committee already, the other 5 are not being pushed along. To me, economically, we need to get these moving, or at least get them moving. When I made my presentation I had some people that sit on a disaster committee and they didn't know what reinsurance was.

Commissioner von Hahmann: We don't usually deal with federal legislative issues, however that may be one to look at it at the Legislative Committee level and bring it back to the full Council. You are talking about Federal legislation needed to address this, not just the state of Florida. You have earthquakes in California, the floods, tornadoes, etc. I would welcome that.

Chairman Black: When we made our visit to Washington a few months ago that was one of the topics that was brought up so I think it would be appropriate. The committee could give us guidance, but send a letter from the Council as a whole.

We have two issues right now - the PIP and is there a general consensus from the Council that we go ahead and send a letter to the Governor indicating our concerns from a local government standpoint about PIP and our responsibilities there? We can draft that letter and send it out.

Councilor Matthews: I'm concerned that there will be some people that the letter is going to touch that don't know the effect that this will have.

Chairman Black: We will go ahead with a Personal Injury Protection letter and then we will also be discussing the National Catastrophe Fund in conjunction with our Legislative Committee.

Commissioner Miller: Do we need a motion?

Chairman Black: We can do this with general consensus.

8. **Program Reports**

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

The Natural Resources Committee met last week. A report was provided by staff of the

Manatee County Port Authority on the status of the port expansion activity, dredging and seagrass mitigation projects.

Consultant for Tampa Bay Water provided technical information to explain Tampa Bay Water's potential petition to reclassify the Alafia River and the Tampa Bypass Canal from Class III to Class I waters. Class III is the general classification considered to be waters which are fishable and swimmable, while Class I is designated for potable use. Attention focused on the Alafia River and the existing sources of nutrients and fluoride that could be affected if the reclassification is granted. The Committee voted to recommend that the full Agency on Bay Management support the reclassification. The Committee also voted to recommend that the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission analyze the creation of a planning overlay for the Alafia River basin which would include development and stormwater treatment standards equivalent to Outstanding Florida Waters protection.

The Committee was also briefed on the Longshore Bar re-creation project underway at the south end of the Interbay peninsula. This project is designed to restore the protective bars that once sheltered shallow-water habitat and seagrasses from wave action. A grant from the Pinellas County Environmental fund is aiding this work.

And the Committee discussed the proposed action by the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County to eliminate its Wetlands Division. The Committee voted to ask the Agency's Executive Committee to send a letter to the EPC Board asking for a one-year study of the Wetland Division's responsibilities, the environmental and financial impacts of the existing program and any proposed changes, and an assessment of the financial impact to the agencies or entities which would assume the division's various responsibilities if it were to be eliminated.

The next full Agency meeting will be at 9:00 am on Thursday, September 13th. You are all welcome to attend.

Reverend Golden: How is the Agency on Bay Management involved with One Bay? What is the involvement?

Ms. Cooper: The agency itself has not been directly involved, yet. Many of our members are also part of local governments, and the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP) is a partner. They have promised to analyze the impact of the development scenario on water quality and runoff to Tampa Bay. They will be using models to do that. The ABM has not been involved yet. We are ready, if we are asked to.

Reverend Golden: Maybe I don't understand the depth or the jurisdiction of the

Tampa Bay Estuary Program, but when I look at the seven counties that are involved in this process is that agency going to be able to provide the depth of input that we are going to need across the seven counties?

Ms. Cooper: No. Maybe Mr. Wynne can tell us. I know that the model has been developed for water quality based on land use which is specific for Tampa Bay and certainly all seven counties don't feed the Tampa Bay watershed. Our counties would be involved, but I don't know about the others that don't touch Tampa Bay.

Reverend Golden: It just seems to me that at some point somebody needs to sign off on the plans. I don't know which agency, or if it is comprehensive planning.

Ms. Cooper: We do have stormwater treatment requirements in law and actually those are being revised by the state to deal with what we are seeing that has not been effective in stormwater treatment from whatever the land uses are. Since what we are really talking about is increasing densities or more pavement and so forth, simply that water quality aspect should be taken care of. The greater effect could be on water supply and the effect of trying to supply potable water for these additional 3 million people and what impact that will have on our regional resources has not been addressed. Mr. Wynne said that SWFWMD is also a partner and one of their primary responsibilities is water supply. They are coordinating with the TBEP.

Mr. Wynne: The TBEP is coordinating with Sarasota and their program and SWFWMD has comprehensive watershed management plans that cover the seven counties (rather 6.5 counties).

Reverend Golden: I would just hate for us to get 5 years down the road and someone says none of this is going to work because we aren't able to deal with the water.

Councilwoman Mulhern: I wanted to ask about the letter you mentioned that you are writing. They are meeting this week. The Hillsborough County BoCC is meeting Thursday morning at 10 a.m. to discuss whether they eliminate the wetland protection.

Ms. Cooper: We want to make sure it is done fairly and completely.

**B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)** - Chair, Vice Mayor Deborah Kynes

No Report.

**C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)**

No Report

**D. Emergency Management**

No Report.

**E. Legislative Committee** - Commissioner Jane von Hahmann, Chair

The Legislative Committee met this morning to discuss the following:

We discussed the passage of the Growth Management HB 7203, which was presented to us in the 2007 Legislative Session paper that came out of DCA. A lot of it has to do with growth, transportation, and affordable housing. Specifically, the Local Government Plan Alternative State Review Process-Pinellas County and its municipalities as well as the City of Tampa are a part of the pilot program. The basic concern we have is the 30 day window and things that are sent in to staff. Staff will send them in with the review and we would ratify or make changes later and send the comments. I don't know how that could actually have any affect. We may try to get some tweaking in the upcoming legislative session. Reverend Golden pointed out that the actual OPPAGA Report isn't due until 2008 so we do have one more legislative session.

We were presented a report on the Tampa Bay Area Regional Transportation Authority (TBARTA) legislation that passed. That was Representative Galvano's and the area transportation group that was put together. There was no funding, however, the FDOT District 7 and District 1 will be funding the first couple of years of operation. The Legislative Committee recommends that we seek a seat on the Policy Board in the 2008 Legislative session.

The following have been approved to the Policy Board:

Hillsborough County- Commissioner Hagen

Manatee County-Commissioner Stein

Pasco County- Commissioner Hildebrand

Pinellas County- Commissioner Duncan

MPO Chair's Coordination Committee- Mayor Frank Hibbard

City of Tampa/HART- Mayor Iorio (or designee)

City of St. Petersburg/PSTA- Mayor Baker (or designee)

City of Bradenton-Mayor Poston

Four Gubernatorial Appointees- Appointments are anticipated to be made tomorrow.

The first TBARTA meeting will be held August 24th 9:00 a.m.-12:00 at the Crown Plaza in Sabal Park.

There will also be a Tampa Bay Regional Transportation Forum on August 21, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Crown Plaza in Sabal Park. The main sponsors are the FDOT and the Bay Area Delegation.

Also the Region Transit Roundtable meeting will be held here at our offices (TBRPC) on August 29th from 9:00 a.m. till 11:00 a.m.

FRCA's Framework for Florida Planning Reform. This reform will be discussed at the Florida Regional Council's Association Policy Board meeting on August 17th in Orlando. We are hoping that this would be a starting point to re-engineer growth management in the State of Florida- from adopting a new state plan, as well as revamping Chapter 163 F.S. to developing the next generation of Strategic Regional Policy Plans. If you are going to be talking regionally, then our plan and the Council need to be center stage. We need to be the bridge to working that regional plan and how all the different municipalities and counties tie together from the different regions. There will be a FRCA Board discussion this Friday and then it will come back to Council for discussion and accepting to whatever they agree upon.

Chairman Black stated the Legislative Committee was in concurrence with FRCA's Framework for Florida Planning Reform and would like to know if Council concurs. Vice Mayor Kynes, Mr. Kersteen, Reverend Golden, Ms. Todd, and Chairman Black will be representing TBRPC at that meeting. Council concurred.

**F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)**

No Report.

**G. Telework Tampa Bay**

No Report.

**H. Economic Development**

Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner, provided a presentation of the 2007 *Draft* Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The Power Point presentation can be viewed at: www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm

Since 2003, TBRPC has been a funded Economic Development District (EDD). The Economic Development Administration (EDA) provides half of the funding. TBRPC funds the other half. Advantages for local governments are they no longer have to create individual CEDS and an extra 5% of funding is available.

The primary functions of the EDD are, but not limited to:

- The preparation and maintenance of a CEDS. Create a new one every five years, and the years in between to update. The last one was 2003 and this year EDA has changed some of the rules of the CEDS and because of those changes everyone is creating a new CEDS for this year.
- Assist in the implementation strategies identified within the CEDS.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments.

The Strategy Committee's role is to provide guidance and feedback, prioritize importance of projects and goals, and recommend final CEDS to Council for approval. Our Strategy Committee this year is smaller than last year to make it more manageable. One of the new rules was that private individuals had to make up 51% of the membership. The list of members can be viewed in the presentation on the website.

Highlights of this year's CEDS:

- Tampa Bay remains a destination location.
- Large population growth and anticipated population growth. By 2030 it is anticipated there will be 4 million people.
- Growing economy. The local job market remains strong with a lower than average unemployment rate of under 6%. It is notable that employment by age of the years 25-65 remains at about 4%, indicating a strong demand for employment.
- Competitive businesses are strong.
- Strong clusters.

The region has done better in Education than the Florida average on FCAT scores and drop out rates. During this process it was noticed that education is stronger than a lot of people think. It is actually one of our stronger points.

Economic Analysis - Gross Regional Product is strong. If considered a country, Tampa Bay would move ahead of Nigeria for the 48$^{th}$ largest Gross Regional Product in the world.

We also did a Location Quotient Analysis, which basically takes a percentage of workers in a certain industry, compares it in our region, and compares it with the percentage of workers to the nation. Water transportation is at 3.55 people compared to the nation. Administrative support services is very strong. Some of the places we are weak in is manufacturing with a rating of .25. For every 4 in the nation we only have 1 in manufacturing.

Shift Share Analysis can be viewed on page 19 of the presentation. Shift share takes the total growth of the industry and divides it between Share Change, Mix Change, and Shift Change to figure out why that industry is growing so much. The retail trade and construction is in the negative. The mix change represents the industry change so while the industry for retail and construction is going to consolidate over the next 20 years, we anticipate in our area due to the national change and shift change, which is our region's competitiveness, that the industry will still grow.

Themes were created through the Strategic Findings and the SWOT (Strategies, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). The four main themes that were decided to focus on are Infrastructure (transit and water), Workforce (retention, improvement and education, affordability), Business Continuity (after a disaster to be able to get up and running is huge for the local economy & building more of a diverse economy), and Economic Analysis (what we can do to help the local governments to be able perform economic analysis to see which business would be best for them to improve or retain).

Reverend Golden: I've been looking for a direct connection. We talked about this 3 or 4 years ago. How do we tap into federal dollars, or the dollars that could come from this strategy, to try to help us in this region with our affordable housing needs? How do we tie that to economic development directly without mincing any words?

Mr. Wynne: When you look at Manhattan, apartments are expensive but then you ride the subway for $2 or $3 a day. By some measures it is more affordable than Tampa Bay. When you add automobiles, gas, etc. it is more expensive to live in some areas of our region. The EDA is asking us, as a collective body and the TBRPC sitting as the Economic Development District, to say - what are some prevailing themes in your region that are hindering your economic competitiveness? What areas can you enhance to provide a catalyst? That's what these four areas are. With workforce we are trying to say that our post secondary education and getting that in line with the jobs that are coming to the area as opposed to continuing to train people for jobs that we used to have. The other part of it is affordability. Do we do it to attract people to the region? We tried to make that point and we tried to make it as briefly as possible.

Reverend Golden: We just keep talking in our respective jurisdictions about providing workforce housing. The problem we have at that level is there is no money and/or there are no developers that are interested in pursuing it.

At some point I'm trying to raise the visibility of the problem. I know that housing affordability is not the same problem all over the country as it is in this area. But it is a problem and I'm just asking if it is possible to consider posturing to the EDA some concerns for affordable housing projects. I did see one in the City of Clearwater that they have a private partnership to build 126 condo units with the Beck Company. I'm just saying, can we expand that? Is that something under your purview? If it is then I want to go back to my county, my city, and say you need to contact the Regional Planning Council about the possibility of grant opportunities to assist us in attracting capital.

Mr. Wynne: EDA has funding for infrastructure, as will be shown on the last slide of the presentation. You can submit your project for inclusion on the implementation projects list.

Goals are shown on page 38 of the *Draft* CEDS. Goal 9 promotes the appropriate use of the natural resources and green building through sound economic development activities consistent with environmental management goals. Goal 11 is to educate business on continuity and recovery plans to address workforce retention and ensure access to loan and other assistance programs. Goal 12 is to encourage a regional perspective on transit, highway, seaport, airport, rail, and multi-use trail planning and development.

When it comes to projects, EDA has requested that there be "suggested" and "vital" projects. We have a Vital Projects Criteria so that if someone was to submit a project, as long as it fell within the criteria list we would be able to green light it, improve it, and it would go forward for EDA funding.

Time Line:

July 17 - Strategy Committee approved 2007 CEDS to go to public review.

August 3 - Beginning of required 30 day public review.

August 13 - 2007 Draft Presentation to TBRPC.

September 10 - End of public review comment period and TBRPC will vote to approve CEDS.

September 15 - Submittal of 2007 CEDS to EDA.

Mr. Wynne: There is still time for local governments to submit projects. We would like to have those no later than September 10th, but preferably by the

end of the 30 day window which would be about September 3rd. We have sent a letter to all of the local governments and municipalities. If your project is in the plan the folks sitting in Atlanta at the EDA may look through the list and see your project. They could possibly go through our plan and see a project that really fits what they are trying to do and they could move that project up to middle status.

**I. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)**

No Report.

9. **Other Council Reports - None**

10. **Executive/Budget Committee Report** - Chairman Black

No Report.

11. **Chairman's Report -** Chairman Black

No Report.

12. **Executive Director's Report** - Manny Pumariega

No Report.

**Adjournment** 12:02 p.m.

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Lori Denman, Recording Secretary

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Commissioner Scott Black, Chairman