



Council Minutes

January 14, 2008
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Chair, Vice Mayor Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Past Chair, Commissioner Scott Black, City of Dade City
Ms. Jane Bittner, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Council Member Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey
Vice Mayor Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena
Commissioner Harriet Crozier, City of Largo
Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Commissioner Ronnie Duncan, Pinellas County
Commissioner Rose Ferlita, Hillsborough County
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Mayor Ward Friszolowski, City of St. Pete Beach
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Commissioner Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Mr. Andy Núñez, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
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
Councilman Earnest Williams, City of St. Petersburg
Commissioner Robert Worthington, City of Gulfport
Mr. Mike Downs, Alt., Ex-officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-officio, SWFWMD

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT

Mayor Larry Bustle, City of Palmetto
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Gubernatorial Appointee, Pinellas County
Ms. Kim Vance, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Mr. Philip Waller, Gubernatorial Appointee, Hillsborough County
Commissioner Keith Zayac, City of Safety Harbor
Mr. Bob Clifford, Ex-officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-officio, Enterprise Florida

OTHERS PRESENT

Shawn College, Exec. Planner, Hillsborough Planning Commission
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Tim Butts, Project Planner, Wilson Miller

Katherine Cole, Representative, Johnson Pope Bikor Ruppel & Buns
Andrea Zelmar, Attorney, Fowler White
Ann Sheller, Planner, City of Temple Terrace
Beth Alden, Transp. Planner, Jacobs Carter Burgess
Mark Gentry, Sr Planner, Englehardt Hammer & Assocs.
Jason Mikel, Sr. Planner, SWFWMD

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
Ms. Jessica White, Senior Planner
Ms. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order - Chair Kynes

The January 14, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chair Kynes at 10:01 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Secretary/Treasurer Mariano, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call - Recording Secretary

A quorum was present. There were no voting conflicts.

Incoming Chair's Remarks:

I would like to begin by thanking and honoring our immediate Past Chair, Commissioner Scott Black. His honest and kind demeanor, his wisdom and experience on local and regional issues, and his wonderful sense of humor are assets that provided this Council with a great leader.

It is an honor to be elected to serve as your Chair. Since joining the Council in 2000, I have had the pleasure of observing and learning from several great folks that held this position before me. People like Commissioner Black, Mr. Kersteen, Commissioner von Hahmann, and Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd. I have also admired Past Chairs Steve Seibert and Judge George Greer.

I like to use the analogy of a wheel to describe the components of a livable community. The livable community wheel must include the following components: affordable housing, mass transit, workability, green building, environmental sustainability, arts-cultural and historic preservation, and finding ways to bring in creative entrepreneurial people who will bring those innovative solutions to produce a thriving economy. You will find most of these important issues in the Strategic Regional Policy Plan and the Council's Initiatives Plan.

Through the years I have also had the opportunity to get to know our dedicated Executive Director, his competent staff, and all their efforts on striving for a regional livable community. It will be a pleasure to continue to work with them on the issues which will comprise our regional livable community.

We will continue our efforts on affordable housing. We have made some strides in the area such as our stricter requirements on the last five DRIs that have come before this body. And, as approved last month in our Legislative Issues, we will continue to seek legislative support for our statewide workforce housing initiative. Mass Transit and affordable housing are important spokes of the wheel. We also must have a sustainable environment and arts, cultural and historic preservation. Without all of these ingredients we will still end up with a lopsided cake.

My goal this year is to bring in speakers who will present on each of the critical components to developing this livable community concept. I hope that each of you will be able to learn from the presenters and gather ideas for your communities as well.

Lastly, I would like to thank each of you for your dedicated service and for your time, talents and expertise that you bring to the TBRPC. I look forward to working with each of you as we embark upon our 46th year in regional planning.

Special Recognition:

Julian Garcia, Jr. was recognized for his service as Vice Chair of the Legislative Committee and was presented with a plaque.

Mayor Ward Friszolowski was recognized for his service as Chair of the Nominating Committee and was presented with a plaque.

1. **Approval of Minutes** - Secretary/Treasurer Mariano
The minutes from the December 10, 2007 meeting were approved. (Petersen/Miller)
2. **Budget Committee** -Secretary/Treasurer Mariano
The Financial Report for the period ending 11/30/07 was approved. (von Hahmann/Kersteen)
3. **Consent Agenda** - Chair Kynes
Authorized the Chairman to sign the Declaration of Cooperation, including the contribution of up to \$3,000 for development of the Assessment and Allocation Report to develop technically-sound, equitable nitrogen wasteload allocations.

DRI Development Order Reports (DOR)

DRI # 256 – Northwest Sector, Manatee County

DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)

DRI # 97 – St. Petersburg Intown Areawide, City of St. Petersburg

Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports

1. DRI # 98 – Sabal Center, Hillsborough County
2. DRI # 157 – Trinity Communities, Pasco & Pinellas County
3. DRI # 170 – Westfield Citrus Park Mall, Hillsborough County
4. DRI # 235 – Four Corners Mine Addition/Phase 1, Manatee County

Annual Report Summaries (ARS) / Biennial Report Summaries (BRS)

1. DRI # 140 – Tampa Triangle, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County

2. DRI # 158 – Tampa Bay Park of Commerce, RY 2006-07, City of Oldsmar & Pinellas County
3. DRI # 202 – Unnamed Exclusive Golf & Country Club, RY 2006-07, Manatee County
4. DRI # 203 – Beacon Woods East, RY 2006-07, Pasco County
5. DRI # 210 – New River, RY 2006-07, Pasco County
6. DRI # 249 – South Shore Corporate Park, RY 2006-07, Hillsborough County
7. DRI # 254 – Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport S/D, RY 2006-07, Manatee County, Sarasota County, City of Sarasota

Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments Reviewed

1. DCA # 08ER-1, City of Safety Harbor
2. DCA # 08PEFE-1, Pasco County
3. DCA # 08-1, City of Temple Terrace

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

4. **Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None**
Council members shall notify Chairman 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. **Dr. Richard Hilsenbeck, The Nature Conservancy**
Dr. Hilsenbeck presented the Nature Conservancy’s scientific look at conservation lands in Florida.

The Nature Conservancy is a private/non-profit conservation organization that works cooperatively with landowners to bring about conservation in this state. Our mission is to conserve plants and multi-natural communities that represent the diversity of life by protecting lands and waters they need to survive. It involves a lot more than tree hugging and I hope to convince you today that the conservation of biological diversity in the State of Florida, and elsewhere on the planet, is viable to our own economic well being and sustainability.

This presentation was prepared as a prelude to work with the legislature and the Governor to get a new Florida Forever successor program and we hope you will be able to help with the upcoming legislative session.

As you are aware, there are over 1,000 people that move to Florida everyday. That’s dropped a little recently, but it’s still at least 850 everyday. In 2006 we had over 82 million visitors which helps drive and sustain our economy. However, it also stresses our infrastructure, environment, water supplies and can negatively impact our quality of life. We believe that continued economic growth and prosperity are imperative, including healthy agriculture and tourism industries. The bay area region certainly depends on tourism to drive the economy and tourism is Florida’s number one economic engine and that is a sustainable enterprise. We think that kind of economic growth must be balanced by the protection of open spaces that protect our wildlife, water supply, and our quality of life.

Polls conducted by The Nature Conservancy overwhelmingly indicate that the citizens of Florida are concerned about maintaining their continued high quality of life. They care about water supplies, conserving wildlife and their habitats, and the need for more large open spaces for recreational, hunting, education, scientific studies, and as a tool to direct growth to less sensitive and more appropriate areas, lessen the impact on existing, expensive infrastructure (roads, utilities), and

promote a sound environment for healthy lifestyles.

These same polls indicate that a majority of people are willing to vote to tax themselves or have bond referendums in various counties, such as Hillsborough and Sarasota counties. And they will vote for continued statewide funding for a statewide conservation program. We think these protections of large open spaces are necessary for maintaining our environment and sustaining the myriad of benefits that support Florida's human population, including tourism.

Ecosystem services include a wide variety of direct and indirect benefits that humans derive from natural ecosystems and the biodiversity they contain. These benefits come from the structure of ecosystems, the function of ecosystems, or both. Ecosystem services can be classified into four categories: provisioning, regulatory, supporting, and cultural.

- Provisioning services include food and fuel production, building materials, medicines and freshwater.
- Regulating services include climate regulation, flood control, disease control and water filtration and aquifer recharge.
- Supporting services include soil formation, biogeochemical nutrient cycling, oxygen production and carbon sequestration.
- Cultural services include educations/scientific, recreation, aesthetics and inspiration drawn from the natural world.

These kinds of ecosystem services are the basic elements that drive and sustain our economy and contribute in untold ways to our quality of life.

These statements form the crux of why conserving biodiversity is so vital to our own economic and environmental well being and survival. As such, conserving landscape scale conservation areas and the biodiversity they contain is the linkage to our own continued quality of life and prosperity - both economic and physical. A continued conservation program is not an option when planning for Florida's future growth. Many important biodiversity sites throughout Florida have already been lost and we cannot afford to lose many more.

Some of Florida's most important eco-systems are: Everglades-extremely important for our water supplies, not only for the residents along the coast in south Florida, but for agriculture as well. Sandhills are typically prime aquifer recharge areas. Flatwoods are a community type that a lot of people do not appreciate but it is really one of the matrix communities of the state that actually collect, store, and slowly release rainwater and form the basis of watersheds and aquifer recharge. Hammocks are important for the Florida Panther; and, Dry Prairies are native range lands that are typical cattle ranches which make conservation work well together. Scrub is an important natural community type for aquifer recharge; Riverine Systems and Flood Plains feed our estuary areas and are productive sport fishing.

Dr. Hilsenbeck showed maps of the ecological resource conservation areas from 1991. In looking at the Tampa Bay region there were the Myakka River State Park, Hillsborough River State Park, and some areas in Pasco, and the Cross Bar Ranch which has been recently added to the Florida Forever "A" list. The Cross Bar Ranch is a major wellfield for water supplies that are owned by Pinellas County, but is located in Pasco County. The map was created in 1991 as a blueprint for Preservation 2000. This map showed what was thought to be the interconnected system of natural lands that were needed to sustain Florida.

The Nature Conservancy produced a new GIS based map as a blueprint for a Florida Forever

successor program using four different statewide data sources: The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Strategic Habitat Conservation Areas; Florida Natural Areas Inventory's Habitat Conservation Priorities; University of Florida GeoPlan Center's Ecological Greenways Network; and The Nature Conservancy's Eco-regional Portfolio Sites. We used the top and middle prioritized tiers to delineate the 2006 areas of conservation interest map.

The Tampa Bay region encompasses a very dense population, and in fact has the most dense human population in the state. The updated habitat conservation priority show areas from Sarasota/Manatee, northern Hillsborough up through Pasco County as extremely important for their habitat conservation priorities.

While the Areas of Conservation Interest encompass over 10 million acres, the Conservancy is advocating that these broad areas serve as a guide in which approximately two million acres of the highest quality and most strategically located lands should be sought for conservation. The figure of two million acres is intended to give some certainty to the often asked question regarding land conservation, "How much land is enough?"

The combined dollar figure right now on the Florida Forever list for those 2.2 million acres is somewhere in the range of \$15 billion. We have \$20-\$25 million left and we think we need a new successor program to really finish the job that we started. That is the reason we produced the map and I'm hoping to enlist your assistance with the Governor's office and the legislature to help us lobby for a new Florida Forever successor program. And it really only costs \$5-\$10 million to launch a \$300 million series of bonds. I know there are many pressing economic needs in the state such as insurance reform, property tax reform, mass transit and affordable housing, but for \$5-\$10 million the legislature can set that aside and that can launch another \$300 million in bonds and that's not a lot of money in the overall state budget of \$70 billion.

The protection of an additional two million acres of conservation lands would bring Florida's total conservation land base to 33% of the state. If 33% of the State of Florida in core conservation holdings, that may be enough to sustain biological diversity, maintain our freshwater supplies and ensure that adequate ecosystem services are available to provide for a sustainable environment, economy and high quality of life for Florida's human citizens and wildlife. Although there is not absolute certainty in the concept that conserving 33% of Florida is enough to sustain our environment, protection of the lands identified will dramatically increase our chances for long term sustainability. They really don't cost anything to the community and they provide a wealth of benefits.

We also suggest that an additional 33% of Florida should remain in active and productive agricultural operations such as cattle ranches that would serve as buffers for the suite of conservation lands and help to maintain a diverse, balanced and healthy economy. It should be noted that agriculture is Florida's second largest economic engine behind tourism, and both are sustainable, renewable economic endeavors.

The conservation community in the state has remained remarkably consistent in what has been sought as a basis for sustaining the Florida environment. We would like the job finished. We need a successor program in order to do that. It won't cost the state that much and there are huge benefits in doing it. You mentioned Steve Seibert and the Century Commission. The Century Commission has worked with the University of Florida and the Florida Natural Areas inventory to produce a Critical Lands And Waters Identification Project map. The darkest red on that map are their priorities and they duck-tail extremely well with what the Conservancy has put together. We think

we need to finish the job. We are hoping for your support.

This Presentation can be found at www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm

Questions & Comments:

Commissioner von Hahmann: Could you review how you go about participating in the purchase and finance of property?

Dr: Hilsenbeck: The Nature Conservancy is a private non-profit 501(c)(3). We typically go out and identify important lands for conservation. We go out and buy lands outright - last year we bought over 1.5 million worth of lands on our own that we've sold about 80 million of that back to the state at this point. We also go into partnership with funding partners, particularly state government, local governments such as counties, and occasionally with the federal government. We often negotiate option contracts with the landowner for the purchase of that property and then we assign those to the state of Florida and they can close on those. We don't have to have double closings and waste like that. We only work on the state priorities and in fact over the past 17 years we've been involved in putting over 60 different projects on the Florida Forever list.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Does Disney work with you?

Dr: Hilsenbeck: You are probably aware of our Disney Wilderness preserve - a large mitigation set aside for Celebration. We do have a member of the Disney Corporation on our board. Yes, we work with businesses, developers, landowners. We work quietly to acquire land.

Commissioner von Hahmann: You also participate in voter referendum because I know you worked with Manatee County on a referendum which did not pass. Do you have any idea of how many environmental lands funding sources that are done by counties - is it supported by sales tax versus ad valorem? Sarasota is ad valorem and some of the other counties is actually sales tax. Manatee County went out for sales tax, not ad valorem.

Dr: Hilsenbeck: I can't fully and accurately address your question. There are 27 counties and municipalities that have passed referenda either based on ad valorem or sales taxes. We feel it is easier to get an ad valorem measure passed. When people see the word "tax" it makes it a little more difficult.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Is this presentation available on your website?

Dr: Hilsenbeck: It is not, but it is now on the TBRPC computer and will be available.

Commissioner von Hahmann: I think the Nature Conservancy has done an excellent job but land management does cost local governments. When the state gets involved and purchases lands we, as counties or cities, are usually responsible for management.

Dr: Hilsenbeck: That is a good point and you are accurate in stating that these natural lands really need to be managed to maintain their character and why they were bought. And if they are opened to the public and completely accessible that requires staff and planning. So yes, there are some costs. We would like to see and it has been a huge

issue this year where we share a title with the state or local governments. Also we would like to see local governments be able to tap into the trust fund for management as well, not just the state agencies. We are actually seeking in our Florida Forever successor legislation an increase in management dollars as part of the overall program.

Commissioner von Hahmann: Will the bill be worked so we could participate in some of those dollars?

Dr. Hilsenbeck: Yes.

Mr. Garcia: The state owned land, does that also include the land owned by the water management districts?

Dr. Hilsenbeck: Yes it does.

Mr. Garcia: And the total plan, does it also take into consideration the local 27 counties?

Dr. Hilsenbeck: In some instances it does, some counties. Usually the counties with a bond initiative, the counties that are more populated and sophisticated and often have GIS systems where we can get those shape files and put those into the system. Usually we rely on the Florida repository of data. Where possible, yes.

Council Member Petersen: Thank you for your presentation. I'm glad you mentioned Cross Bar Ranch. For those of you who are not aware, it is owned by Pinellas County. It is located in Pasco County. Pinellas County gives guided tours and I have had the chance to go up there. If you have never done it, take the tour. It is a phenomenal piece of property and it is a really good example of what Florida used to look like. What are your thoughts about Cross Bar? You said you were going to talk about it and I'm just curious what the Nature Conservancy is thinking.

Dr. Hilsenbeck: It's certainly important to overall water supplies from Tampa Bay Water. As you are aware, it is about a 12,500 acre property; 8,500 acres of it is in Cross Bar and 4,000 in Out Bar. The 17 commercial wells are along Cross Bar. It was proposed to Florida Forever the last cycle and made the "A" list. Personally I think it is about time - in order to get the new legislation passed we are going to have to save some of our natural lands and we need to have some multi-purpose areas such as some well fields that are well done as long as they don't pump down the groundwater excessively. Our water supply is extremely important. I didn't know whether Cross Bar was going to make the "A" list. It made the list by an appearance before the Council and said Southwest Florida District will buy the Cross Bar portion along with Pasco County to make it a bond issue referendum. That is going to be their focus while the state's share will focus on the 4,000 Out Bar Ranch, which is in more of a natural condition and has no wells on it. That is what catapulted it onto the "A" list, members compromising between the District and the County and Florida Forever. It is on the "A" list, but unfortunately there is no real money to buy it.

Commissioner Duncan: When you are talking about true acquisition, how much of it could be less in fee? We typically think of it as being a fee acquisition, but don't you do a lot of less than fee and, from a Commissioner's point, it allows for some sort of less responsibility at the local government level and frankly is not as capital intensive that way.

Dr. Hilsenbeck: I am a major proponent of conservation easements and less of pre-acquisition. I've probably done about 40 conservation easements in this state and they do have benefits. It costs less. Typically somewhere in the range of 50%-60% fee value. It keeps the land in private ownership and on the tax rolls. It keeps it under private management so the state, counties or local governments don't have to pay for management. We do them where we can and where it is appropriate. There are some landowners that want to sell. We have a list of criteria that was developed 15 years ago of a good set of parameters. Its really up to a landowner. The state is warming up to conservation easements and we also believe these conservation easements need to be in perpetuity.

Commissioner Duncan: With respect to Cross Bar, I know we are talking very seriously about doing that on the Out Bar piece which the state would be involved in, which would not have the same resource requirements. We would stay involved somehow.

Commissioner Mariano: I would like to thank you for your help in the acquisition of the Cross Bar Ranch. I know Pasco County and Pinellas County worked together. This is a neat site. I think it is a lot better for us to try to look at preserving our well fields than trying to look at building another reservoir, or salt desalination plant so I think this is the ultimate way to go and I appreciate your work.

Commissioner Worthington: I also took the tour of Cross Bar. I'm a native Floridian. I've done a lot of hunting and walking through the woods in Florida. My visit to Cross Bar was totally astonishing. I saw wildlife in numbers that I've never seen in my life and its really important that we protect that. Again, if they were to sell tickets for people to go visit I'm sure it would get around and properly managed it would be wonderful. I noticed part of that looks like a working cattle ranch.

Dr. Hilsenbeck: Yes, the northern part.

Commissioner Worthington: Would that remain?

Dr. Hilsenbeck: That would be up to the managing entity, whoever it may be, the Division of Forestry, Fish and Wildlife. I would hope it would remain. It's an improved pasture and they have a great manager out there. There are burrowing owls out there as well and lots of other wildlife. You are probably aware also of the educational facility. All seventh graders in Pasco County are run through an environmental program at that facility and I would like to see that remain as well.

Commissioner von Hahmann: I think it is interesting to see that 15 years ago the environmental community would have been battling with agriculture. The idea that we have finally come to terms with the fact that not only are they viable economic sources in the state, they are also ecosystems in and of themselves that need to be preserved. I know that some of my staunchest environmentalists, who I guarantee you 10 years ago would have been complaining about agriculture and the damage they do, today recognize that they represent open space, systems, and are great stewards if they do it right. Our agriculture community is fabulous in Manatee County and I love working with them.

Dr. Hilsenbeck: There are far more commonalities between the environmental and conservation communities and the agriculture community and

those have been realized over about the past decade and we've pushed that hard.

Chair Kynes:

I sit on the Soil and Water Conservation Task Force for the Florida Department of Agriculture and it really did teach me how far they have come with all their best practices in being stewards and really working with the environmental people. Are we actually leveraging local dollars with federal? How does that go?

Dr. Hilsenbeck:

There are a few cases of leveraging local dollars with federal, but typically local dollars are leveraging state dollars from the Florida Forever program unless the county is involved with the Natural Resource Conservation Services to do a wetland reserve program or something like that. You wouldn't be typically leveraging federal dollars. It would be the Florida Forever dollars, both through the Florida Communities' Trust Program and the Carl Program administered by DEP's division of state lands. The state of Florida has the premier conservation land programs in the nation, and the world, even outstripping the federal government's expenditure on conservation lands through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the federal government has not put a large amount of money in there. Your best leverage is with the state of Florida provided they have money.

Commissioner Minning:

Considering your mission here is to gain support, how do you see this body participating and where do you see the status of your successor program with the legislature?

Dr. Hilsenbeck:

What I would like to see happen is this body contacting the governor's office and your local legislative delegation. The Governor is about to come out with his budget toward the end of this month. We want to make sure that at least the \$300 million is there. We know it is a tough budget year but what we would like to see - now is the opportunity to buy lands. The market is down a little and we have a great opportunity to secure conservation lands. We have people begging us to buy their lands but there just isn't any money. What we would honestly like to see, and we know it's a tough budget year, is a doubling of the capacity of the Florida Forever for the next 2 years through the end of its life in 2010. To double it to \$600 million and as I said, to launch another series of bonds of \$300 million it only costs \$5-\$10 million. I would hope that you would call or write the Governor's office and your legislative delegation as well as to promote a successor program after Florida Forever ends so that we can finish the job. As I said, we have lots of polling and you are probably well aware of this. A lot of you are elected officials. These kinds of issues are extremely popular with the public. The Collier County bond referendum that happened last year passed with 82% or 85%. People are willing to tax themselves for conservation and quality of life benefits.

Chair Kynes:

If I could suggest, we could send it, unless you need it immediately, to the Legislative Committee and then bring it to full Council in March for action.

7. **Council Members' Comments** - Chair Kynes

Commissioner Black reminded Council members of the Kumquat Festival on January 26th, the last

Saturday of January. We roll out the red carpet for our guests. If you arrive early you can get a slice of kumquat pie.

8. **Program Reports**

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

The Committee had a full agenda last Thursday, January 10, 2008.

Based on recommendations from the Agency's executive steering Committee, revisions to the Agency's Organizational Statement and Operating Procedures were discussed and adopted. Tampa Bay Water was added to the list of Agency members.

Goals for 2008 were also adopted - including a summary of Agency and member's Bay-related activities to be published in *Bay Soundings* annually, and sponsoring or co-sponsoring one or more regional conferences this year.

Of long-time interest to the Agency has been the use of Boat Registration Revenues by our counties. We received reports from Hillsborough, Manatee and Pinellas counties on this, and discussed use of the fees for marine law enforcement.

Also of interest to the members was a report from the president of the Florida Stormwater Association concerning the state's Fertilizer Task Force. This body will be issuing a report this week, probably recommending legislation that will pre-empt local governments from adopting nutrient control ordinances. The Natural Resources committee will follow up on this issue.

Mr. Kersteen thanked Mayor Friszolowski for his 5-6 years serving as Vice Chair of the Agency on Bay Management.

Our next full Agency meeting will be March 13th.

Commissioner von Hahmann: I'm wondering if pursuant to the Fertilizer Task Force report if there might be an opportunity for the ABM to present to this body as a whole, or to our Legislative Committee, so we can have a better understanding of the impacts. Some of our local jurisdictions are beginning to look at localized fertilizer ordinances. There are a very broad number of issues that come to bear on this particular item.

Mr. Kersteen: Sarasota County was the first one in the state that adopted such an ordinance. Yes, we have in our plans to bring that back to this body.

B. Clearinghouse Review Committee (CRC)

No Report.

C. Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

No Report.

D. Emergency Management

No Report.

E. Legislative Committee - Chair, Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr.

The next meeting will take place on February 11th, following the Council meeting. In the meantime, we will be monitoring our own legislative issues as well as any growth management issues that may gain momentum. We will be able to provide a report to the FRCA Policy Board during their February meeting.

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC)

No Report.

G. Telework Tampa Bay

No Report.

H. Economic Development

No Report.

I. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF)

No Report.

9. Other Council Reports

Chair Kynes stated Reverend Golden did not win his election in the City of Bradenton which created a vacancy on our 2008 Slate of Officers. The Nominating Committee met this morning to bring forward a new candidate for consideration. Chair Kynes called on the Nominating Committee Chair, Mayor Ward Friszolowski.

Nominating Committee - Chair, Mayor Ward Friszolowski

The Nominating Committee met this morning prior to our Council meeting. A quorum was present with the following members: Myself as Chair; Mr. Bob Kersteen; Counselor Bob Matthews; and Commissioner Jane von Hahmann.

We are pleased to nominate Commissioner Bill Dodson from the City of Plant City. He has been a board member for the past 5 years and has been an active member of the following committees: Legislative Committee, Clearinghouse Review Committee, Regional Planning Advisory Committee and the Florida Regional Councils Association (FRCA) Policy Board.

The Nominating Committee would like to present to the full Council Commissioner Bill Dodson for your consideration as Vice Chair.

Chair Kynes asked the Council if there were any nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor.

Chair Kynes called for a motion to approve Commissioner Bill Dodson for the position of Vice Chair FY 2008. (Black/Kersteen)

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

11. **Chair's Report** - Chair Kynes

Today I think we had an excellent presentation on how important our environmental sustainability is, and again, as we go through this year we will touch on different spokes of the wheel.

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

Mr. Pumariega informed the Council regarding the morning's editorial in the Tampa Tribune, titled "If Voters Kill Tax Amendment True Reform Will Be Revived" which discuss the pros and cons of Amendment 1.

Mr. Pumariega stated he is looking forward to working with the new 2008 slate of officers.

Councilman Williams invited everyone to the MLK parade in St. Petersburg on the January 23rd, which is the largest parade in the U.S. ABC will televize the parade and we will also have the Battle of the Bands on January 20th, Sunday, Tropicana Field. Bands from all over the country come in to participate. College bands also participate.

Adjournment 11:00 a.m.

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary

Vice Mayor Deborah Kynes, Chair