Council Minutes
February 9, 2009
10:00 a.m.

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT
Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Vice Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Past Chair, Commissioner Deborah Kynes, City of Dunedin
Commissioner Kevin Beckner, Hillsborough County
Ms. Jane Bittner, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Pinellas County
Commissioner Woody Brown, City of Largo
Commissioner Larry Bustle, Manatee County
Deputy Mayor Bob Consalvo, City of New Port Richey
Commissioner Larry Crowley, City of South Pasadena
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Harry Kinnan, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Council Member Janice Miller, City of Oldsmar
Vice Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Mr. Andy Nuñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Council Member Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Laura Woodard, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Mike Downs, Alt., Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Mr. Ming Gao, Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, South West Florida Water Management District

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Commissioner Harry Metz, City of St. Pete Beach
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Councilman Karl Nurse, City of St. Petersburg
Vice Mayor Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Commissioner Robert Worthington, City of Gulfport
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Michele Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida
OTHERS PRESENT
Kartik Goyant, Project Manager, Epperson Ranch, LLC
Bob Bry, Planning Director, Pinellas Park
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Holly Greening, Executive Director, Tampa Bay Estuary Program
Gina Harvey, Planner, Pinellas County Planning Department
Leigh Ann Pyror, County Engineer, Hillsborough County PWD

STAFF PRESENT
Mr. Manny Pumariaga, 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, Director of Administration/Public Information
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner
Mr. John Meyer, Principal Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O'Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Ms. Erika Wiker, Planner
Ms. Kim Williams, Communications/Graphics Coordinator
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order – Chair Dodson
The February 9, 21009 regular meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order
by Chair Dodson at 10:05 a.m.

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

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary
A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary
One voting conflict was filed:

A voting conflict form was filed by Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee on
Consent Agenda Item #D.2. Development Order Amendment Report, DRI #247 - Long Lake Ranch,
Pasco County and she refrained from voting on this item.

1. Approval of Minutes – Secretary/Treasurer Collins
   The minutes from the December 8, 2008 Annual Meeting were approved (Beckner/Minning).

2. Budget Committee – Secretary/Treasurer Collins
   A. The Financial Report for the period ending 11/30/08 was approved (Kinnan/Beckner).
   B. The Financial Report for the period ending 12/31/08 was approved (Kersteen/Beckner).
3. Consent Agenda – Chair Dodson

A. Budget and Contractual

1. Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program

Approval to accept Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program to fund a planner for 18-months, to perform duties specified by the Tampa Bay Regional Domestic Security Task Force, Region 4. The grant is from the Department of Homeland Security, through the Florida Division of Emergency Management/Department of Community Affairs in the amount of $75,000. The Department of Homeland Security has authorized two planner positions for each of the 7 Domestic Security Regions. One resides with the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the second positions is authorized to a regional county office, either with a county emergency management office or reallocated to a respective Florida Regional Planning Council. TBRPC will administer the Region IV RDSTF planner at TBRPC offices for the period outlined in the contract and will respond to statement of work developed by the state, appended to the contract. There is no requirement for in-kind match.

Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with DCA was approved.

2. The County Emergency Management agencies of Hernando, Hillsborough, Manatee, Pasco, Pinellas and Sarasota have requested that TBRPC staff provide assistance in the production and coordination of printing and distribution of the annual hurricane guide. Bids were received from three (3) print companies based on the specifications provided. Newspaper Printing Company, Tampa, FL, a local firm and the printer selected in 2007 and 2008 was selected based on past performance and references, demonstrated capabilities and cost. Print placement and management services will be provided by Printing Solutions of Florida.

Authorized the Executive Director to sign a Purchase Order for up to $45,000 with the Printing Solutions of Florida for printing and print management services of the 2009 Hurricane Guide.

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

1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction
   a. December 2008
   b. January 2009

2. IC&R Database
   a. December 2008
   b. January 2009

Information Only.

C. DRI Development Order Reports (DOR)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

DRI # 258 – Epperson Ranch, Pasco County
D. DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and all relevant review agencies in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

1. DRI # 141 - Westshore Area Wide, City of Tampa
2. DRI # 247 - Long Lake Ranch, Pasco County

For Information Only

The following Reports are presented for Council action:

3. DRI # 130 - Cypress Banks, Manatee County
4. DRI # 132 - Gateway Centre/Parcel C-2 Expansion, City of Pinellas Park

E. Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports

DRI # 140 - Tampa Triangle, Hillsborough County

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

1. DRI # 92 - Park Place, RY 2007-08, City of Clearwater
2. DRI # 115 - Woodland Corporate Center, RY 2007-08, Hillsborough County
3. DRI # 116 - Tampa Telecom Park, RY 2007-08, City of Temple Terrace
4. DRI # 118 - Tampa Cruise Ship Terminal, RY 2007-08, City of Tampa
5. DRI # 233 - Connerton, RY 2007-08, Pasco County
6. DRI # 256 - Northwest Sector, RY's 2006-08, (Biennial), Manatee County

G. DRI Status Report

For Information Only.

H. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)

Due to statutory and contractual requirements, the following reports have been transmitted to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) and the appropriate local government in accordance with Rule 29H-1.003(3), F.A.C.

1. DCA # 09-1AR, Pinellas County
2. DCA # 08-1, City of Zephyrhills
3. DCA # 06D-1, Pasco County (adopted)
4. DCA # 08-2AR, Pinellas County (adopted)
5. DCA # 08-CIE, City of Tarpon Springs (WITHDRAWN)
6. DCA # 08-CIE, City of Oldsmar
7. DCA # 09-1, Town of Redington Beach
8. DCA # 08-2, Hillsborough County (adopted)
9. DCA # 08-2, City of Plant City (adopted)
10. DCA # 08-CIE, City of Pinellas Park
11. DCA # 08-CIE, City of Plant City
12. DCA # 09-CIE, City of Clearwater
13. DCA # 09-1, City of Madeira Beach
14. DCA # 08-2AR, City of Largo (adopted)
15. DCA # 08-1PEFE, City of Seminole (adopted)
16. DCA # 08-1RWSP, Pasco County (adopted)
17. DCA # 07-1ER, City of Port Richey (adopted)
18. DCA # 08,1P, Pasco County (adopted)
19. DCA # 08-1ER, City of Clearwater (adopted)
20. DCA # 08-2ARB, City of St. Petersburg (adopted)

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

16. DCA # 09-1ER, City of Bradenton Beach
18. DCA # 09-CIE, Pasco County
19. DCA # 09-1ER, City of Pinellas Park
20. DCA # 09-CIE, Town of Kenneth City
21. DCA # 09-1ER, St. Pete Beach
22. DCA # 09-CIE, City of Tampa
24. DCA # 09-1ER, Town of St. Leo
25. DCA # 09-CIE, City of St. Pete Beach
27. DCA # 08-1ER, Town of Redington Shores
30 DCA # 08-ER, Town of Redington Beach (adopted)
31. DCA # 08-1ER, City of Dunedin (adopted)

The Consent Agenda was approved (Kersteen/Consalvo).

4. Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s) - None

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

6. A. The Florida Strawberry Festival
Chair Dodson introduced Ms. Barbara Caccamisi, Project Coordinator from St. Clements Catholic Church.

Ms. Caccamisi and a couple of ladies from St. Clements set up a table for Council members to make their own strawberry shortcake, a taste of Plant City. The Church has been involved with the Florida Strawberry Festival since 1974 when they started their first strawberry shortcake. They served their first strawberry shortcake on March 6th, 1974 and at the close of that first festival the church made $5,000. That was enough money to air condition a little brick church in downtown Plant City. Since that time we have moved out onto acreage on Alexander Street. We are now in our 10th year of being in a new Cathedral type church that we are still paying for. We are the only church in the diocese of St. Petersburg that Bishop Lynch refers to as the church built on the foundation of strawberry shortcake.

We are partners with the Florida Strawberry Festival and the festival this year runs from February 26th through March 8th. We have top line entertainment this year. We are one of three booths in the Strawberry Festival that serves strawberry shortcake and are the only major owned strawberry shortcake project in the world, as far as we know. It is a huge undertaking. We have, on average, each day in our social hall at church, 200 people hauling and preparing the berries. When we take them to the booth we have 70 people per day operating our booth at the festival grounds. All of these people are volunteers. We use the funds to pay for our church building. When we close out each year, depending upon how much we made we donate back to various organizations such as MS (multiple sclerosis), Relay for Life with the American Cancer Society, the Rainbow Center which is a daycare for underprivileged children, and to the Pregnancy Crisis Center. We try to pay back into the community and give back to various organizations that need a little help.

Strawberries are the only fruit where the seeds grow on the outside. They are a part of the rose family. They are very high in antioxidants and help you think clearly.
Chair Dodson said people come from all over the world to attend the Festival and is a big event for Plant City. St. Clements Catholic Church sells over 125,000 shortcakes each year and all the proceeds go back into worthwhile projects.

B. Model Regional Fertilizer Ordinance

Ms. Holly Greening, Executive Director of the Tampa Bay Estuary Program (TBEP), provided an explanation of an ordinance for use by local governments within the Tampa Bay watershed which could result in reduced nitrogen loading to Tampa Bay and improve water quality.

Ms. Greening reminded Council members that she spoke last year about the ordinance which has now been endorsed by the TBEP’s Policy Board and has gone through a couple of our local governments.

Nitrogen is a major pollutant of concern in Tampa Bay. Excess nitrogen clouds the water and reduces sunlight so seagrasses can’t grow. We have been fortunate in Tampa Bay to see clear water compared to where we were in the 1970s and that has been because of the actions of local governments over the past 20 years. In order to maintain that we need to continue to reduce nitrogen to the bay.

Baywide residential runoff accounts for 20% of the total nitrogen load to Tampa Bay. Homeowners use 6 times more fertilizer/acre than farmers. 79% of nitrogen carried in groundwater to Lake Tarpon is from fertilizers.

Costs to remove excess nitrogen from waterways can be significant. Stormwater retrofits can range from $40,000-$200,000 per ton (estimate from SWFWMD). Wastewater treatment upgrades are greater than that amount.

There are several local fertilizer laws in Sarasota County and City; Lee County; Collier County; St. Johns County; Sanibel; Marion County; and Jacksonville. The Florida Legislature considered a statewide rule in 2007, but the bill failed due to opposition from local governments. There are new bills coming forward this year. The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services passed a new rule in 2007 concerning labeling of fertilizer bags and maximum nitrogen and phosphate content in the fertilizer but have not talked specifically about applications, which is what this ordinance does.

Up to the development of the Regional Non-agricultural Fertilizer Application Model Ordinance the TBEP facilitated four workshops between April and June, 2008. There was strong participation from 42 private and public sector organizations and worked on a consensus-based approach. Issues addressed were: Timing of nitrogen fertilizer; Buffer Zones; Licensing of Lawn Care Professionals; Regional Certification & Decal Program that allows training between different local governments; Reclaimed Water, and Education.

The Key elements of the Regional Model Ordinance, endorsed by the TBEP Policy Board in November 2008 include:

- Non-agricultural fertilizer containing nitrogen should not be applied from June 1-September 30, rainy season, which is consistent with Sarasota’s ordinance.
- Non-agricultural fertilizer should not be applied within 10 feet of a waterway or wetland.
- A 6-foot low maintenance or “no mow” zone adjacent to waterways using groundcovers should be encouraged, but is not required.
• Training and licensing of all site supervisors of lawn care companies. Currently, lawn care companies are required to have licenses and training for applications of pesticides and herbicides but not fertilizer.

• Create baywide license/certificate for reciprocal recognition across the region so that if a lawn care company is certified in Manatee County it would be recognized in Hillsborough or Pinellas County.

• Restrict point-of-sale nitrogen fertilizer during the rainy season. This would apply specifically to the retail sellers of fertilizer in the area. There are alternative “summer safe” lawn fertilizers commercially available such as potash, magnesium, and micronutrients, but not nitrogen.

• Provide information about nitrogen levels in reclaimed water to all customers using reclaimed for lawn irrigation. This is important because nitrogen is included in reclaimed water, in different amounts for different systems. Some cities and counties that receive reclaimed water may not need additional nitrogen because you are getting enough with the reclaimed water.

Estimated nitrogen reductions by community assuming a 50% compliance rate: Hillsborough County - 30 ton reduction; Manatee County - 8 tons; Pinellas County - 6 tons; Clearwater - 1.5 tons; St. Petersburg - 7 tons; and Tampa - 8 tons. These are significant numbers and will help in terms of being able to maintain our nitrogen loads to Tampa Bay.

The estimated cost saving to local governments would be a baywide savings of $2.4 million to $12.1 million, based on 50% compliance and estimated nitrogen removal costs. An example is that St. Petersburg has spent $20 million to remove 4 tons of nitrogen from Lake Maggiore and has $100,000 per year operating/maintenance for the alum treatment. The reduction of nitrogen at the source would provide a significant cost savings.

The model ordinance was endorsed by the TBEP Policy Board, November 2008. A local government may choose to implement, but is not required to do so. Technical background and costs/benefits of the ordinance have been provided. FDEP and EPA have been contacted regarding possible regulatory credit for adoption of the ordinance. Their response has not been received as yet. We have distributed the model ordinance to governments in the Tampa Bay watershed.

The Policy Board also allocated $75,000 in unencumbered specialty license tag funds for development of a regional fertilizer education campaign and we are currently seeking matching grants. A steering committee was established and convened in January.

The ordinance schedule:
Hillsborough County EPC staff was directed to hold stakeholder workshops in January.
Pinellas County is scheduled for February-March, as is Manatee County.
St. Petersburg is underway.
Clearwater is not yet scheduled, nor has Tampa been scheduled.
The City of Gulfport has passed the first reading of the ordinance.

For more information: www.tbepetch.org

Questions & Comments:
Vice Chair Mariano: On the reclaimed water, what are your recommendations as far as not only should they look at reducing the nitrogen content but maybe you
should look at local governments going even further, especially during the rainy season, to limit the amount of quantity that they actually put out. I know Pasco County currently doesn’t have limitations for metering. Have you considered metering in your ordinance?

Ms. Greening: We considered how much nitrogen would be additional if an entity using reclaimed water watered either 2 or 3 times a week. We did not look at reducing it from reclaimed water. With reclaimed water some cities and counties will still need to fertilize a little in order to get the amount recommended for healthy lawns. The restriction of irrigation certainly is important from a water management point of view. We did not consider reducing the use of reclaimed water as a nutrient reduction element.

Mr. Pressman: The Howard F. Curren Plant in Tampa dumps 69 million gallons a day of reclaimed water into the bay, which is high in nitrogen. We have been trying to encourage getting that water tapped and put it into place somewhere else for use. Has your agency been trying to encourage that as well?

Ms. Greening: One of the actions in our Comprehensive Plan is to encourage reclaimed water throughout the bay area. The Howard F. Curren actually does treat to a very high level. Having some of that water or all of that water, and not just from that plant but for all of the plants that still discharge to Tampa Bay is a way to reduce nitrogen. When a plant goes from direct discharge to reclaimed water it actually reduces the nitrogen level by about 9%, which is a large reduction to the bay.

Mr. Pressman: There have been several plans that the city was looking forward to in committing this water. One was the Start Project which was to run water in North Hillsborough County; another was to expand their reclaimed system. There are several proposals now that are being studied. I would suggest, via the SWFWMD staff, for your agency to review and put pressure on the city to commit. 60-90 million gallons a year are pouring into the bay. There is a connect here in terms of SWFWMD pushing this plan and we need help to keep that commitment with the city.

Mr. Kersteern: The ABM brought this up back in September or October and deferred to TBEP so we didn’t have duplication of effort and we thank you for coming up with a workable ordinance that can be adopted on a bay-wide governmental basis and get rid of a problem that sorely needs attention.

Council Member Petersen: Clearwater discussed this item briefly at the last Council meeting but we didn’t have enough time to go into it. One of the stumbling blocks that my Council started talking about, and maybe you can address this, is the point of sale. The problem we are seeing is that if you restrict in Clearwater they can just go to another city and buy it there. We are wondering how you are planning to address that issue. My second question, which may be more for Commissioner Brickfield than you is, is the county intending to do this as a county wide policy or are they looking at each city to adopt their own ordinance?

Commissioner Brickfield: I was talking about this on Friday and it is my belief, based on that conversation, that we were looking at this as a county wide ordinance exactly for that reason.

Council Member Petersen: Commissioner Brickfield: So the county is intending to look at this as a county wide ordinance. Yes. But every city that adopts the ordinance puts pressure on the county.
Ms. Todd: Do you have a CD of your presentation? I want to take it to a group that works with the EPA and I want to make a presentation to them. Thank you.

Vice Mayor Minning: What were the objections from the local governments in the legislation that was defeated?

Ms. Greening: The primary objection from the local governments was that the bill proposed last year did not allow local government to be more stringent if they desired. It was a statewide ordinance and it took away from the ability of a local government to implement their own ordinance.

Vice Chair Mariano: About the point of sale - what is to keep an operator that has a huge stock from having a huge sale which might push more on the market that might normally get there?

Ms. Greening: I think the point of sale is the most problematic that has not been defined as clearly as it needs to be by the local governments as yet. Perhaps I can ask some of the other local governments to talk a little about how they view going forward with a point of sale restriction.

Vice Chair Mariano: As far as Mr. Pressman talking about what’s being done in the bay right now, that’s something we have looked at as well. I think Pasco is trying to collect some of that, and to me, having that many gallons going into the bay is a huge issue. If this Council changed when the Agency on Bay Management meets I would love to get on that committee, but it meets the same time we have our MPO meeting.

Commissioner Beckner: I think it is important to have something on a regional basis and we are all on the same page. Especially when we look at Sarasota’s ordinance. We are going to be holding a public workshop on a reduced nitrogen load requirement that they have in their particular ordinance where they require 50% reduced nitrogen in their sales. I think if we can get something formulated more to a regional basis, unless there’s something specific that serves specific communities, I think we’d be better off. This would help the industry and also manufacturers that sell this product so they don’t have to guess about different ordinances. I would lean more to a regional ordinance.

Mr. Pressman: I’m curious, have you heard from the industry and are they working with you or against you?

Ms. Greening: The manufacturers have started to put out summer safe plans because Sarasota has already implemented and several others have implemented an ordinance and some are banned from nitrogen fertilizer. The fertilizer manufacturers attended our stakeholder workshop and were part of the consensus approach. The one piece of consensus that we were not able to get through the workshop was the summer ban. The recommendation from the lawn care industry and researchers for lawn turf grass was to allow a one time application of nitrogen during the summer if the lawn was tested to need nitrogen. That was not approved, and also the ban was not approved. We brought both of those options forward to our Policy Board and the Board thought that for education purposes and ease of compliance that a single message of having the summer ban was most appropriate and that’s why they chose to include that in the model ordinance.

Mr. Kersteem: Move approval of Resolution 2009-1 (seconded by Ms. Todd)

Chair Dodson: We still have discussion before taking action.
Mr. Garcia: Has any research been done on alternative turf that would use significant less nitrogen?

Ms. Greening: Not that I’m aware of. I know some golf courses are using a grass that can be watered with saltwater. There may be some options there but I don’t know the specifics of how that could be used for residential lawns.

Ms. Collins: I’m not an expert in this by any means, but it seems to me that offering incentives to the manufacturers to offer more product that is “green” to the consumer that the consumer would buy that because they are educated it is a better product. I don’t know how you would do that.

Ms. Greening: The Education Steering Committee had that same thought. There really does need to be an incentive to allow additional materials that can be applied during the summer and provide the greening of the grass. That might be an educational component.

Chair Dodson: You will notice in your packet a resolution that has been presented to us to take action on, the Model Fertilizer Ordinance by Local Governments of the Tampa Bay Region that will be submitted to all the local jurisdictions within the Tampa Bay region. Mr. Kersteen called a motion and it was seconded by Ms. Todd. Motion carried.

This Power Point presentation can be found at www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm

C. Friendship Trail
Ms. Leigh Ann Pyron, Hillsborough County Public Works, provided an overview of the engineering status of the Friendship Trail Bridge.

The Trail Bridge was built in 1956 by FDOT and when the new span was built they were going to demolish the old bridge. Instead ownership of the Trail Bridge was transferred to Hillsborough and Pinellas County. In 2000, original repairs were completed in order to open it up as a pedestrian facility. We were ready to issue a notice to proceed for additional repairs in November 2008 when the consultant came to us and said they found a problem with the fishing piers. We decided then that we better not spend $4 million until more investigation was completed. We sent the consultant back out and they prepared a report with pictures that showed a lot of corrosion and deterioration to the beams and they recommended we close the bridge in the center section. We left opened the fishing catwalk areas and closed the center section of the bridge in early November 2008. They did more investigation and came back in December and said we should close the entire bridge until we investigate more. On December 17 we went before the Hillsborough County board and provided them preliminary information provided by our consultants. If we wanted to demolish the entire bridge it would cost $12 million; if we wanted to tear it down and rebuild it would cost $82 million; and if we did preliminary repairs, based upon the information they had at that time, for the entire bridge it would be in the neighborhood of $30 million. If we just fixed the ends that were open back in November with the catwalk it would be $4 million plus whatever we would have to do to keep it safe for boaters or anyone under the bridge. At that board meeting we were directed to go out and hold public input meetings in Hillsborough County and we took this to the Oversight Committee and they approved holding meetings in both Hillsborough and Pinellas to get public input and see which way the public would like to go on this. Right now we are trying to schedule those meetings. We are working with Ms. Gina Harvey in Pinellas County to schedule them for March-April. Our consultant is going back out to do further testing to see exactly what is going on. The bridge is a
post-tension and there is no cable inside the bridge to hold it up. When chloride gets in, it makes the metal rust, expand, and pop off the concrete. We know where it has popped off the concrete but we don’t know where it is going to pop off in the future. The consultant is doing more testing in the first week of March and once we get that information we will go out to the community with some options. We are scheduled to go before our board in Hillsborough in early June, and Pinellas will probably do the same with their board. The report is quite large and is posted on line at the Hillsborough County Public Works page, as well as www.trailbridge.org. The report contains a lot of pictures and graphs.

Questions & Comments:
Council Member Miller: Has any of the concrete actually fallen off the bridge?
Ms. Pyron: I would have to say yes, but not in big chunks because we’ve got corrosion where the steel bars are exposed. Pinellas County is in the process of getting permits from Fish & Wildlife and the Coast Guard and as soon as we get those permits we’re going to post signs warning people not to hang out under the bridge. We hear a lot of people saying that it’s only people and bicycles using the bridge. Our concern is not the load from people, but with the dead load of the bridge itself. It could fall under its own weight. Will it fall? I don’t know. Nobody really knows. Risk Management has to protect the people.

Ms. Todd: I think it’s a good idea that you’re checking this out because then you’ll have better options as to the extent of repairs. It also shows a pro-active initiative because that was a symbol of a real important liaison between Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties and I personally hope it can be resolved quickly.

Ms. Pyron: I personally used it a lot.
Mr. Kersteen: Thank you for your overview. I’ve been a member of the Friendship Trail Oversight Committee for the last 6 years, and an original member of the Friendship Trail Corporation. I’ve been a director of that corporation for 14 years. Our latest estimates are that 600,000 people from the bay area use the bridge each year and they come as far away as Pasco County. I was shocked at our November 6 meeting when it was announced that the middle of the bridge would be closed. Then on December 27 I was shocked again that the catwalks were also going to be closed. As Ms. Pyron said, there is good reason for that. The bridge could collapse under its own weight. You can’t take any chances. I think we should try to fix it and the stimulus bill may be the vehicle we need to get the funding. As far as the local governments are concerned they are hurting and don’t have extra budgetary funds. This is our only way. The committee has opted to have two public hearings, one in Tampa and one in Pinellas to see what kind of public input we receive. That will be passed back through the county commissions. Hopefully we can snag some money to fix the bridge. It will help the bay area residents hang on with the bicyclists, rollerbladers, and runners. They need that facility. Also, it ties in with the Pinellas Trail, the Tampa Trail, the Hillsborough County Trails, Pasco County and Hernando County Trails. This is a long network that is sorely needed and we don’t need a gap in the middle. The City of St. Petersburg has been working on their links up First Street and across Riviera Bay for several years now and there are pieces of that put together.
Ms. Pyron: When we have a project and go out for public comment we always want to know real options. In this case we really don’t have options, we are going to have to do something because we can’t leave it as it is.

Ms. Gina Harvey from Pinellas County discussed efforts of the Oversight Committee.

We have a Friendship Trail Oversight Committee made up of different commissioners from each county, two legislative representatives, and representatives from a non-profit. We serve as the coordinating committee between the two county commissions because the Trail Bridge is jointly owned. We are working on the public meeting, one on each side of the bay to get public input and also Pinellas County Commission and Hillsborough County Commission have put the Friendship Trail repair project on the proposed stimulus list.

Questions & Comments:

Ms. Todd: Is it appropriate for us to encourage support of what Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties have done with their proposals on the stimulus bill?

Chair Dodson: Would you like to make that in the form of a motion?

Ms. Todd: I will make that motion (seconded by Mr. Kersteen) Motion carried.

Chair Dodson: What you are proposing, with a second, is to encourage participation and recognition of this project being worthy of funding through the stimulus bill. Motion carried.

7. Council Members' Comments

8. Program Reports

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

The ABM Habitat Restoration Committee met on December 11, 2008. Mr. Peter Clark provided a presentation on the MacDill Air Force Base Shoreline Stabilization project. Also, Mr. Mark Flock of the Pinellas County Department of Environmental Management provided a report on Seagrass and Bay Conditions Before and After the Fort De Soto Recirculation project.

The Full Agency met on January 8, 2009. Mr. Bruce Laurion, Port Engineer, and Port Authority consultants provided an update on Tampa Port Authority’s Proposed Berths 151 & 152. Mr. Steven Kelly, Program Administrator, NPDES Stormwater Section of the FL Department of Environmental Protection, presented on MS4 Permit Renewals. Dr. Ann Hodgson, Gulf Coast Ecosystem Coordinator for Audubon of Florida, presented an overview of the nesting and wintering American Oystercatcher population in Hillsborough Bay and management recommendations.

On February 12 the Agency will hold a meeting at 9:00 a.m. On the Agenda: Terra Ceia State Park Preservation; results from the Feathersound seagrass studies and future restoration work; and an update on planned Tampa Harbor re-widening. The Agency’s Legislative Review Committee will meet at 1:30pm to discuss draft legislation, boating regulations, a pilot program for mooring fields, etc.; and propose legislation regarding seagrass scarring. All are welcomed to attend.
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.
Unlike the Senate, the House was not proposing any reductions to the RPCs in the special session. The Senate Transportation and Economic Development Committee initially proposed a $828,153 reduction, but thanks to Senator Mike Fasano the Senate restored the RPC funding to the $7,470,000 million level. I also want to thank the Council members that sent emails to Tallahassee and contacted people directly.

However, in the current state fiscal year RPCs are funded through the Florida Building Code Trust Fund and have been advised by the DCA that the trust fund is experiencing a shortfall of 12% and the RPCs should adjust to a new anticipated funding level of $2,129,600. Our legislative team in Tallahassee is working on a more reliable, recurring funding mechanism for the RPCs and will advise the Council as soon as it is introduced.

A couple of Senate Bills of interest to the Council:
- SB 1306 - Relating to Growth Management (Bennett)
  Redefines the term “financial feasibility” to provide for school facilities that do not meet concurrency requirements in a particular year. Revises provisions relating to the concurrency requirements for public facilities and transportation facilities. Revises provisions relating to the creation of transportation concurrency backlog authorities. Revises provisions relating to the pre-application procedures for developments of regional impact, etc. EFFECTIVE DATE: 07/01/2009
- SB 1252 - Relating to Growth Management (Gaetz)
  Expresses the legislative intent to revise laws relating to growth management. EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon becoming law.

In your folder we provided a copy of the FRCA legislative report and a summary of the suggestions made at the February 3rd Senate Community Affairs Committee. We will be discussing some of these proposals with our Tallahassee team this week.

The Joint Committee on DCA Sunset met last week. The discussion was only an overview of the committee process and responsibilities, a review of the two-year departmental sunset process, and a brief breakdown of what divisions and departments that DCA consists of and what the committee will be reviewing. As the committee continues to meet we expect more in-depth discussions.

F. Regional Planning Advisory Committee (RPAC) – No Report

G. Economic Development – No Report

H. Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) – No Report

9. Other Council Reports - None
10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson
The Committee met this morning prior to the Council meeting to go over and approve the FY 2008 Annual Audit Draft for consideration at the March Council meeting. Expenses were less than revenue and staff showed they are capable of being conscientious on costs and saved in the neighborhood of $137,000 from the beginning of the year to the end of the year. I would like to commend Manny and the staff for doing such a wonderful job of recognizing the need for being diligent and preserving assets.

We also received a status report on the Council’s Regional Cooperative Alliance which is a 501c(3) arm of the Council to provide the ability for the Council to seek grant solicitations from private foundations.

11. Executive Director’s Report
We are providing updates around the region on the One Bay Regional Visioning initiative effort and will be making more presentations around the region.

12. Chair’s Report
Please mark you calendars for the 17th Annual Future of the Region Awards which will take place on Friday, March 20th at 11:45 a.m. at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. We received 44 entries this year and promises to be a great event. The luncheon is complimentary for Council members. Please RSVP to Sue Young.

The Governor’s Luncheon at the State Fair is today.

Please stay and enjoy the strawberry shortcake.

Next meeting, March 9, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 11:09 a.m.

William Dodson, Chair

Lori Deiman, Recording Secretary