COUNCIL MINUTES

December 14, 2009
10:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1

Representatives Present
Chair, Commissioner Bill Dodson, City of Plant City
Vice Chair, Commissioner Jack Mariano, Pasco County
Commissioner Nina Bandoni, City of Safety Harbor
Commissioner Ron Barnette, City of Dunedin
Commissioner Kevin Beekner, Hillsborough County
Mayor Scott Black, City of Dade City, Past Chair
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
Mr. Robert Kersteen, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Harry Kimman, Manatee County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Vice Mayor Bob Matthews, City of Seminole
Mayor Bob Minning, City of Treasure Island
Mr. Andy Nuñez, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Councilman Karl Nurse, City of St. Petersburg
Council Member Carlen Petersen, City of Clearwater
Councilman Patrick Roff, City of Bradenton
Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Council Member Suzanne Vale, City of Oldsmar
Vice Mayor Robert Worthington, City of Gulfport
Mr. Earl Young, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Ming Gao, Ex-Officio, Florida Department of Transportation
Ms. Pamala Vazquez, Alt., Ex-Officio, Department of Environmental Protection
Ms. Michelle Miller, Ex-Officio, Enterprise Florida
Mr. Todd Pressman, Ex-Officio, Southwest Florida Water Management District

Representatives Absent
Secretary/Treasurer, Ms. Jill Collins, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Jane Bittner, Pinellas County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mayor Shirley Groover Bryant, City of Palmetto
Council Member Alison Fernandez, City of Temple Terrace
Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr., Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Vice Mayor Al Halpern, City of St. Pete Beach
Councilwoman Mary Mulhern, City of Tampa
Mayor Kathleen Peters, City of South Pasadena
Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, City of Tarpon Springs
Councilman Ed Taylor, City of Pinellas Park
Ms. Kim Vance, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
Mr. Charles Waller, Pasco County Gubernatorial Appointee
Ms. Laura Woodard, Hillsborough County Gubernatorial Appointee
OTHERS PRESENT
John Healey, Planner, Hillsborough County
Trisha Neasman, Planner, SWFWMD
Jason Mickel, Planner, SWFWMD
Sam Roach, Attorney
Angela Devlea, Managing Partner, Wakefield Brunswick

STAFF PRESENT
Mr. Manny Pumariega, Executive Director
Mr. Donald Conn, Legal Counsel
Ms. Suzanne Cooper, Principal Planner
Ms. Lori Denman, Recording Secretary
Mr. John Jacobsen, Accounting Manager
Ms. Betti Johnson, Principal Planner
Mr. John Meycr, Principal Planner
Ms. Wren Krahln, Director of Administration/Public Information
Ms. Jessica Lunsford, Senior Planner
Mr. Greg Miller, Senior Planner
Mr. Patrick O’Neil, Senior Planner
Mr. Brady Smith, Senior Planner
Ms. Erika Wiker, Planner
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director

Call to Order -- Chair Dodson
The December 14, 2009 Annual Meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council was called to order by Chair Dodson at 10:00 a.m.

The Invocation was given by Ms. Angeleah Kinsler, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call -- Recording Secretary
A quorum was present.

Voting Conflict Report -- Recording Secretary
There were no voting conflicts.

Secretary/Treasurer Collins was out of town and not able to attend the meeting.

Announcements - Chair Dodson
The 2009 Annual Report is now available for downloading on the Council website.

The Future of the Region Awards Call for Entries deadline is January 9, 2010. Council members were encouraged to submit projects.

Chair Dodson and Council members thanked Vice Mayor Bob Matthews for providing the continental breakfast, and for supplying refreshments throughout the past year.

Chair Dodson reminded Council members of the NARC Support Resolution from each of the Council’s municipalities and counties for the 2012 National Association of Regional Councils Annual Conference.
Council would like to receive the resolution(s) before January. The resolutions will be a strong indication of support from our member jurisdictions and would qualify financial support which goes a long way toward helping our Planning Council underwrite the anticipated $60,000 it will take to produce the event.

Staff voluntarily decorated Christmas stockings during their lunch hour for 30 children. The stockings will be stuffed and delivered next door to Help A Child’s Santa Toy Shop. Parents in need, who receive services through Help A Child, will have the opportunity to select gifts for their children to present to them on Christmas day. Staff donated dollars to purchase the stocking stuffers and donations were also received from the Tampa Bay Estuary Program and Florida Blood Services.

Special Recognitions - Chair Dodson

A tradition at the Annual Meeting is to recognize those Council members who have served as Committee Chairs or Officers during the past year.

- Commissioner Jack Mariano served as Vice Chair of the Council and Chair of the Clearinghouse Review Committee
- Ms. Jill Collins served as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Council
- Mr. Bob Kersteen served as the Chair of the Agency on Bay Management
- Mr. Julian Garcia, Jr. served as the Chair of the Legislative Committee
- Vice Mayor Bob Matthews served as the Chair of the Nominating Committee

Chair Dodson presented Commissioner Mariano, Mr. Kersteen, and Vice Mayor Matthews with a set of glass coasters with the TBRPC Logo etched on each. Ms. Collins and Mr. Garcia were absent.

Mr. Punariuega recognized Commissioner Dodson for Chairing the Executive/Budget Committee. Commissioner Dodson helped with the many challenges (with the budget constraints) we faced this past year. The Commissioner was presented with a set of glass coasters with the TBRPC Logo etched on each.

Mr. Punariuega stated that Mr. Garcia was absent from today’s meeting because he and his non-profit are involved with providing gifts to children in Hillsborough County. They are the largest gift-giving organization in the Bay area, providing 10,000 gifts.

1. **Approval of Minutes** – Vice Chair Mariano
   The minutes from the November 9, 2009 regular meeting were approved (Kersteen/Núñez).

2. **Budget Committee** – Vice Chair Mariano
   A. The Financial Report for the period ending 10/31/09 was approved. (Todd/Bustle)
   B. The amendment to check signature authorization for Northern Trust and Mercantile Bank accounts was approved. (Todd/Matthews)
   C. The authorization for Officers and the Executive Director to sign documents was approved. (Kersteen/Todd)
   D. The updating of the corporate bank resolution to reflect/confirm officers was approved. (Matthews/Beckner)

3. **Consent Agenda** – Chair Dodson

   Council Member Vale asked that Item 3.A.2. Target Industry Cluster and Workforce Skills Gap Study be pulled for comment.

   A. **Budget and Contractual**
1. Tampa Bay EPCRA Awareness Week Resolution
Each year the State Emergency Response Commission for Hazardous Materials and the Governor proclaim Florida Hazardous Materials Awareness Week in recognition of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act (EPCRA). This year Governor Crist will be proclaiming February 14-20, 2010 as EPCRA Awareness Week. Local city councils and commissions are urged to pass a similar resolution proclaiming EPCRA Awareness Week in their communities.

Action Recommended: Motion to have the Chair sign Resolution # 2009-5, proclaiming February 14-20, 2010 as EPCRA Awareness Week.

2. Target Industry Cluster and Workforce Skills Gap Study
TBRPC staff, in partnership with the Tampa Bay Partnership (TBP), has submitted a grant proposal to the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund a Targeted Cluster and Workforce Skills Gap Study. The grant application has entered the final consideration stages and staff is hopeful on a favorable response. The 24 month project total is $675,125.00. EDA will invest $540,100.00. The region will contribute $135,025.00. Financial partnership commitment letters have been attained from the Suncoast Workforce Alliance, City of Clearwater, Manatee County EDC, Pinellas County, Worknet Pinellas, Tampa Bay Workforce Alliance, Pasco County EDC, and the Florida High Tech Corridor Council totaling $110,000.00. TBRPC and TBP will each contribute $12,500.00 in-kind.

Action Recommended: Authorize the Chair to execute the EDA grant agreement.

3. Hillsborough County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan
Hillsborough County has requested that TBRPC staff provide technical assistance in the further development of the Hillsborough County Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan. These tasks would relate to redevelopment priorities, economic contingency planning, economic analysis and other similar activities. The work would be paid for by Hillsborough County with State of Florida grant monies. The estimated contract amount is approximately $75,000.00.

Action Recommended: Authorize the Chair to sign an Interlocal Agreement in the approximate amount of $75,000.00 with Hillsborough County.

4. Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program
Approval to accept Federally Funded Homeland Security Grant Program to fund a planner for 18-months beginning January 2010 and 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.

Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Chair to sign the agreement with Division of Emergency Management (DEM).
5. Amendment to the Contract for the Editor of *Bay Soundings*

   An amendment to the existing contract between TBRPC and Ms. Victoria Parsons, editor of *Bay Soundings*, to increase the contract amount by $13,750, plus up to $1,000 additional for reimbursable expenses. Ms. Parsons will be assuming the work and responsibility of the former co-editor. The new contract amount will be $30,250 plus up to $3,000 for reimbursable expenses.

   Action Recommended: Motion to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract amendment.

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

   1. IC&R Reviews by Jurisdiction - November, 2009
   2. IC&R Database - November, 2009

   Action Recommended: None. Information Only.

   3. IC&R #095-09, Longboat Pass Shoal Vibracore Sampling, FDEP #0298107-001-00, Manatee County
   4. IC&R #096-09, Hillsborough County MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan
   5. IC&R #097-09, Pasco County MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan
   6. IC&R #098-09, Pinellas County MPO 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

   Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

C. **DRI Development Order Reports (DOR) - None**

D. **DRI Development Order Amendment Reports (DOAR)**

   DRI # 258 - Epperson Ranch, Pasco County

   Action Recommended: Approve staff report

E. **Notice of Proposed Change (NOPC) Reports**

   1. DRI # 35 - Bayonet Point Shopping Mall, Pasco County
   2. DRI # 132 - Gateway Centre/St. Petersburg, City of St. Petersburg

   Action Recommended: Approve staff report.

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

   1. DRI # 80 - Big Four Mine, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Hillsborough County
   2. DRI # 251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Altman Tract, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Manatee County
   3. DRI # 251 - Four Corners Mine Addition/Phase 2, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Manatee County
4. DRI # 263 - Hillsborough County Mine Consolidation S/D, RY 2008-09 Annual Report, Hillsborough County
Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

G. DRI Status Report
Action Recommended: None. 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 # 09-1PEFE, City of Palmetto (proposed)
2. DCA # 10-1ER, City of Dade City (proposed)
3. DCA # 10-1ER, City of Indian Rocks Beach (proposed)
4. DCA # 09-1RWSP, City of Seminole (adopted)
5. DCA # 09-2AR, Pinellas County (adopted)
6. DCA # 08-1ER, City of Bradenton (adopted)
7. DCA # 09-2AR, City of Clearwater (adopted)

Action Recommended: Receive and file.

I. Local Government Comprehensive Plan Amendments (LGCP)
The following report(s) are presented for Council action:

1. DCA # 10-1AR, North Redington Beach (proposed)
2. DCA # 10-1CIE, Manatee County
3. DCA # 10-1AR, City of Pinellas Park

Action Recommended: Approve staff reports

The Consent Agenda was approved. (Barnette/Núñez)

4. Item(s) Removed from Consent Agenda and Addendum Item(s)
Consent Agenda Item #3.A.2. was pulled by Council Member Vale for comment. Her concerns are not specifically concerning Item 2, she just wants to make sure there is wording to the effect that they are not permitted to use workers who come over to this country using the HIB Visa program. She feels that if taxpayers in Pinellas County, the state, and specific cities are providing tax incentive monies that they should be providing jobs to American citizens only or legal resident aliens, but certainly not people being brought over on the Visa program.

Mr. Pumariega pointed out that we haven’t been selected yet by the EDA but we wanted to have
this on the agenda in case it is approved in January since we don’t have a meeting that month. The proposal is looking at a macro situation in the seven county area and it is trying to study what kind of clusters we want to strengthen in the region, and what kind of new clusters we would like to bring to the Tampa Bay region, and to see where the gaps are. It won’t be dealing with that issue when it comes to employment.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda Item #3.A.2. (Todd/Kersteen) Motion carried.

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

6. Annual Report
Mr. Avera Wynne, Planning Director, provided a presentation summarizing the Council’s activities for 2009. The Annual Report is available on the web site: www.tbrpc.org.

Our region is diverse. Within five minutes our citizens can travel from a heavy industrial area to a rural countryside, having one foot in the global economy and the other in an agriculturally-based economy. One foot in the gulf and another in a strawberry field. With this diversity comes challenges - transportation and traffic congestion, air and water quality, economic development and growth, inter-community disparities, workforce training and housing, and information technology and the digital divide. These are all tough challenges crossing jurisdictional boundaries, challenges best addressed through regional cooperation, planning and action. Regional Cooperation has been the mission of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council for the past 47 years. Regional Planning Councils are recognized as Florida’s only multipurpose regional entity.

In addition to acting as convener of the region the RPC is mandated to focus on five core areas:
Affordable Housing                      Economic Development
Emergency Management                  Natural Resources
Regional Transportation

Our Board consists of 40 members: 4 county commissioners - one from each county; 20 local governments; 12 Gubernatorial Appointees - one must be a school board member; 4 ex-officio’s, one each from the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Transportation, Enterprise Florida, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

Each year the RPC conducts activities in its role as convener of the region.
* TBRPC hosted a Workshop on Senate Bill 360 in August. The workshop included a distinguished panel of invited speakers who shared their views and answered questions related to the newly enacted legislation. Plant City Commissioner Bill Dodson, TBRPC Chair, welcomed the nearly 200 workshop participants. State Representative Rich Glorioso then addressed the audience and introduced the panel. The panel participants included Department of Community Affairs Secretary Tom Pelham and seven other
experts, including TBRPC Counsel Don Conn, that debated the interpretations of SB360. The panelists participated in a question and answer session with the audience.

- TBRPC staff played a key role in the Courtney Campbell Causeway rededication. The Causeway is now a designated scenic highway.

- TBRPC continues to be a marquee partner in the One Bay Regional Visioning exercises.

- Every year the TBRPC conducts the Future of the Region Awards. This year’s winner for the McIntosh award was the USF Research Park of Tampa Bay. The Herman Goldner Award for Regional Leadership was presented to Dr. Judy Geashaft, President of the University of South Florida. She was chosen based on her notable achievement in encouraging future vision and cooperation within the regional community.

Program Reports:

Agency On Bay Management:

The ABM reviewed the US Army Corps of Engineers’ proposed widening of the Tampa Bay Ship Channel Cut B and impacts to benthic communities and Bay circulation.

The ABM held a forum on oil & gas drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico with a panel of experts representing the petroleum industry, oil drillers, the tourism industry, Gulf hydrologists, federal and state legislators.

The ABM provided comments on two proposed new berths at Port of Tampa requiring significant dredging and filling of shallow water habitat.

Decision Support Geographic Information System:

Worked on the One Bay initiative by providing mapping and analysis.

Over the last 5-10 years we have been expanding our capacity to make this more of a decision-making tool, not just a mapping and graphic tool. TBRPC is the lead agency on GIS coordination for the State of Florida Regional Evacuation Study. The TBRPC has provided direction for the formatting and processing of the study-related data. The Council has also developed the GIS application that is used in the creation of storm surge zones for the entire state. Emergency managers throughout Florida use the surge zone data to delineate the hurricane evacuation zones for each county.

We have worked with Hillsborough County Hazard Mitigation Analysis to look at areas that are vulnerable under catastrophic storms to get an idea of which industries would be impacted.
The One Bay scenario used the system to estimate and forecast where development would go if continued at the rate it was.

Emergency Preparedness:

The website based Statewide Florida Business Disaster Kit was finalized.

The Hurricane Guide was produced. 500,000 copies of the official guide were distributed in 6 counties and in English and Spanish.

TBRPC has provided leadership in the development of the Technical Data Report and GIS products, including the new Storm Tide Atlases Evacuation Study for the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. A report will be coming out soon.

The Tampa Bay Catastrophic Plan: Project Phoenix kicks off on January 5-6 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. The event will bring together stakeholders from the federal, state and local governments as well as the private sector and volunteer and faith-based partners. The plan will look at the necessary response to a Category 5 hurricane striking the region to save lives and the partnerships necessary to rebuild and recover from such a disaster.

Local Emergency Planning Committee:

The HMEP Planning Team hosted Ammonia Siren Workshops near the Port of Tampa and talked about sheltering in place so the residents that live near these hazardous materials will know what to do.

The LEPC has been sponsoring training across the Region, primarily for emergency responders. Workshops conducted during 2009 included: Emergency Response to Railroad Car Incidents; Advanced Radiological Response; Chlorine Safety and Response; Hazmat IQ; Confined Space Rescue Operations; and Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness.

The Facility Disaster Planning Team met several times during the year to further efforts designed to bolster the hazardous materials information and resources available on the LEPC and Florida Business Disaster Survival Kit web sites. (www.tbrpc.org/lepc and www.fldisasterkit.com)

Regional Domestic Security Task Force:

- Hosted Regional Domestic Security Task Force Planner
- Facilitated RDSTF training classes and meetings
- Established and maintained an RDSTF training forum that supports collaboration
and coordination of limited training funds.

Economic Development:

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is an Economic Development District which provides funding to the region from the Economic Development Administration out of Atlanta. The EDA may fund the Cluster and Workforce Skills Gap Study.

- Recently awarded grant for 4-county Disaster Resiliency study since the impact of a disaster will extend past the county borders. The Study will show what industries would be affected the most in the event of a storm.
- The Economic Analysis Program provides forecasts or effects of changes created by policy changes or economic events. The program maintains several nationally renown econometric models and each year the program analyzes dozens of scenarios for local economic development organizations. Examples of some include the impacts of TBARTA, HART, 14 Corridor Changes, a car rechargeable battery manufacturing facility, and several local employment expansions.

Development Coordination/Local Government Comprehensive Plan Review:

Council issued 93 local government comprehensive plan amendment reports. There were 163 amendments to Future Land Use Maps; and 87 text amendments.

Developments of Regional Impact:

Five new DRIs were introduced into the review process during 2009. All of these proposals are located within Manatee County.

Intergovernmental Coordination and Review (IC&R):

In 2009, a total of 157 IC&R proposals were processed. 103 were regionally significant and 12 full reports were generated. Examples of projects reviewed include: Transportation Plans; Water and Sewer Plans; Electric Plant Plans; and Utility Corridors.

Bay Soundings:

There were four editions this year, 30,000 circulation per issue. Bay Soundings is in its 8th year of publication. The journal is free and can be viewed online or you can sign up for a free subscription.

The Tarpon Tag:

TBRPC was instrumental in the establishment of the Tarpon Tag. Sales are off by 13%. More than 1,300 folks have dropped their tags and new issues have slowed dramatically. The tag directly contributes to projects that restore Tampa Bay’s natural habitats and
improve water quality which ensures the continued survival of bay inhabitants like the Silver King Tarpon, pictured on the plate.

Technical Assistance/Audience Response System:
Provided Audience Response System services to:
- Sarasota EDC
- SCOPE
- Peace River/Manasota
- Regional Water Supply Authority
- PSTA Transit Workshop
- One Bay Visioning Efforts

This time last year TBRPC was awarded a Regional Leadership Cup from the Tampa Bay Partnership for its role in the One Bay Visioning effort.

Coming up in 2010:
- Project Phoenix: A Catastrophic Plan for Tampa Bay-Jan 5-6 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa. Plans for worst case scenario.
- Disaster Resiliency Study which was done for Hillsborough County was so popular that EDA has awarded a grant to expand to the four counties so it can be looked at on a regional basis.
- Industry Cluster Study and Workforce Skills Assessment
- One Bay Implementation Summit-Feb 26 (changed to April 16) at the Tampa Convention Center. Once we have the Summit we will incorporate the One Bay Vision into the Strategic Regional Policy Plan so we will have a way to institutionalize the vision.

The Annual Report is available to view or download at [www.tbrpc.org](http://www.tbrpc.org).

Power Point presentation(s) can be found at [www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm](http://www.tbrpc.org/councilagendas/councilpresentations.htm)

Mr. Pumareiga encouraged Council members to go to the web site and review the Annual Report which shows the various types of work staff completes that is beyond the items that are included in the monthly Council agenda.

7. Council Members’ Comments
Mayor Black reminded the Council of the Kumquat Festival, which takes place the last Saturday in January (January 30, 2010).
Councilman Nurse stated most of the eligible governments in Pinellas, Hillsborough and Manatee Counties are putting in a stimulus grant request today for weatherizing thousands of houses in the bay area. I assume the odds are one in five or seven of getting the grant. It would be a few million dollars so it would be a great deal if it happens. Hillsborough County is still not on board.

8. Program Reports

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

This past Thursday the Agency on Bay management’s Habitat Restoration Committee met. The meeting was chaired by Tom Ash of the Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County and was well attended. On the agenda were three very interesting topics:

- Lost River Preserve Fisheries Habitat Restoration

Mr. Tom Reis, President of Ecosphere Restoration Institute, described the project to restore 43+ acres of former agricultural and fish farms to wetland and upland habitat near the Little Manatee River. This is one of only three in Florida and 50 in the nation selected for funding, and received $750,000 from NOAA’s $168 million federal stimulus program. Funding was also provided by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Gulf of Mexico program, and Hillsborough County. This is a very interesting project that will improve water quality, provide needed estuarine habitat, and create public open space.

- Progress on the 1997 Alafia River Spill Estuarine Restoration Implementation Plan

Mr. Tom Ash, a member of the Restoration Council, reported on the final stages of plan development. In 1997 Mulberry Phosphate spilled 55 million gallons of acidic water into the Alafia River in Polk County. Habitat and fisheries were destroyed or severely damaged all the way to Tampa Bay. In 2002 a settlement was reached and $3.65 million was provided for environmental mitigation. Of this about $1.3 million was earmarked for estuarine fisheries restoration. The Council received 13 proposals for restoration and conducted some experiments focused on restoring oyster bars. Soon work will start on establishing oyster bars along the eastern side of spoil island 2D and on the southeastern side of MacDill Air Force Base. Saltmarsh will be established on the southern shore of MacDill AFB as well. The goal is to establish four acres of oysters and four acres of saltmarsh.

- Courtney Campbell Causeway Seagrass Mitigation Project

Mr. Jim Anderson of Seagrass Recovery presented the project, constructed in late 2005 to mitigate the loss of seagrasses associated with improvements to the causeway in western Tampa. The project entailed bringing in 100 semi trucks of selected sandy material to
create one acre for planting seagrasses. Jim is a sod farmer who creates and adapts various techniques to successfully grow seagrasses. For this project he grew seagrasses in his tanks off-site to improve survivorship, moved 73 buckets of seagrass, adapted a peanut hopper for use in the project, and used sediment tubes to stabilize the created slopes. This is certainly more art than science!

Jim has also formed partnerships with MacDonald Training Center - whose clients sew the sediment tubes, and The Florida Aquarium, which set up a display showing the sediment tube being used to repair prop scars.

Mr. Bruce Hasbrouck of Faller-Davis is performing the monitoring for the project. He said that a variety of seagrasses are colonizing the area, and that the techniques used there are now being used at other sites to improve success. One interesting side note is that a species of brittle starfish, not common in Tampa Bay, has found suitable habitat among the sediment tubes.

I want to thank all the Council members who served on ABM this past year: Mayor Bob Minning - Vice Chair; Ms. Jane Bittner, Commissioner Neil Brickfield, Commissioner Woody Brown, Vice Mayor Robin Saenger, and Vice Mayor Bob Worthington.

The full Agency will meet on Thursday, January 14th. You are all welcome to attend.

Mr. Pressman mentioned that this is one of many projects that SWFWMD is doing and the re-establishment of seagrasses throughout the bay area has been a huge success. SWFWMD has put a lot of time and money into it and these are great projects. Water quality has improved and fisheries are improving. This is one of many programs and efforts of the SWFWMD staff.

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.
At the October 12th Legislative Committee meeting a motion was made and passed to draft a letter regarding a potential Senate Bill 360 glitch bill in the 2010 Regular Legislative Session. The Legislative Committee is requesting that these comments be considered in the event that a SB 360 glitch bill is introduced during the 2010 Regular Legislative Session. The Legislative Committee has forwarded to the full Council for your consideration and approval of the letter. Upon approval of this letter it will be forwarded to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the Secretary of the Department of
Community Affairs, and the Tampa Bay Area Legislative Delegation.

Chair Dodson pointed out the attachments pertaining to this agenda item which were in the mail out packet. The letter that is proposed is also intended to be sent to Secretary Pelham, Governor Crist, and the Tampa Bay Area Legislative Delegation.

Mr. Don Conn, Legal Counsel, provided a brief presentation. One of the activities of the Council this past year was to sponsor a conference that was held on SB 360, which was well attended with over 200 attendees. Following up on the conference, at the October meeting of the Legislative Committee some of the discussion that arose at the conference became a topic of discussion. It was evident that some issues and differences of interpretation were arising and those were discussed. The Committee decided action might be taken by the Council in the form of a letter and asked me to develop a letter that set forth the different issues that were being discussed and asked that the Council consider that letter and authorize sending that letter. At the November meeting of the Council the draft letter was presented to the Council and some concerns and questions arose with regard to that letter. We considered the concerns and the questions and now I would like to go through the letter that is before you today and distinguish and explain the changes that have been made in the letter to try to address any concerns that arose at the November meeting.

The purpose of the letter is simply to express the willingness, and in fact, the desire of the Council to be upheld to those interests that may be grappling with differences in interpretation of SB 360. Simply a request to be part of the discussion if and when a glitch bill is developed by the legislature. This would be consistent with the role that the legislature has given to the Council of facilitating disputes and facilitating the resolution of questions as they might arise.

The first request would be that as the legislature develops a glitch bill, and there probably will be a glitch bill that addresses these various issues in SB 360, that the Council have a seat at the table and to be able to participate in these discussions as a facilitator, as a mediator, as a group that can bring together different points of view. The first specific item in the letter is in the second paragraph where we talk about the mediation program that the legislature included in SB 360 and made it a mandatory mediation program. The point being made in that second paragraph is that there is a question with regard to mediation and whether or not the intent was for just mediation to be mandatory or the entire dispute resolution process that the Council was involved with, which would include both informal meetings and arbitration. The first point being that we would like to assist the legislature, if they so choose, in resolving those questions that may arise over the role of the Council in dispute resolution.

The paragraph that begins with the word “second” is the second point raised in the letter has some modifications. It deals with mobility fees. You have a report that was just issued by the Department of Transportation, Department of Community Affairs, on mobility fees. In SB 360 the legislature directed those two departments to come forward
by December 1 with a mobility fee recommendation. This is to replace transportation concurrency mechanism that has been in place previously and the proportionate share mechanism for funding transportation projects. The mobility fee study has been presented to the legislature. The second paragraph simply requests that the legislature seriously consider that report and take action during the 2010 session to address this very important issue. Without action by the legislature in 2010 questions will remain as to whether or not the current concurrency mechanism, the current funding mechanism for transportation projects, either can continue or not continue. It suggested that the Council have a seat at the table when the legislature addresses this issue of how local impacts of new development are going to be funded in the future.

The last paragraph on page 1 beginning with the word “third” deals with plan amendments. Questions were raised by Council members about that issue last month. What we tried to do is change the tone of the paragraph. Rather than state a position as to whether or not additional plan amendments which are authorized by SB 360 is good or bad, we simply recognize that SB 360 did authorize additional plan amendments beyond the two a year that had been previously authorized. So additional plan amendments can now come before your local government dealing with transportation concurrency issues and transportation mobility issues. We don’t state a position whether that’s good or bad, but we simply ask the legislature to examine this and see whether or not impacts, perhaps adverse impacts, have resulted for local government because of the additional review, additional plan impacts that you are going to be reviewing.

The paragraph on page 2 that begins with “Fourth” had no questions raised so it has not been changed. It deals with extra jurisdictional impacts. As we all know, this is a major issue. Development in one jurisdiction of what the impacts are, development in another jurisdiction - we highlight that as a major issue and we ask that the legislature allow us to participate in any discussions addressing that potential conflict.

The last paragraph that begins with the word “Finally,” again, there were no questions raised about that. It simply addresses the issue of whether or not local concurrency standards can continue to apply or whether or not, by virtue of SB 360, they are no longer applicable. Some jurisdictions are continuing business as usual under their ordinances with regard to concurrency and some are not. Some are feeling that there has to be some new enactment by local governments. Again, it’s a question and we thought that these questions were significant enough and in some of your communities have significant enough impact that if the legislature is to address this in the 2010 session that you would want to have an opportunity for some input.

It’s in that light that we prepared the revised draft letter. We say, in several places, that we appreciated all of the efforts that went into SB 360. It’s not intended to be critical in any way of SB 360, but just to recognize that questions have arisen and we thought it would be wise for the Council to have an opportunity to help resolve these questions.
Commissioner Beckner: Upon further examination of the letter there is one concern that I would like to address and that is the paragraph that begins with “Finally.” From the position of Hillsborough County we don’t believe that is a strong enough and clear enough statement and we are requesting that the language be revised and state: *to request that local governments be allowed to retain the right to apply concurrency standards adopted under local ordinances until such time that the local government chooses to modify, replace, or repeal such ordinances.* It would be our feeling or belief that it needs to be a stronger statement and we would like that placed into the language.

Chair Dodson requested Commissioner Beckner turn over the language to Legal Counsel. There being no other comments the letter is in a format that seems acceptable to the Council with the exception of the paragraph beginning with “*Finally.*” Commissioner Beckner has offered alternate language. I would ask for a motion on the floor to accept the letter as amended by Commissioner Beckner. (Beckner/Barnette) Motion carried.

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 - Chair Dodson

10. Executive/Budget Committee Report – Chair Dodson - No Report

11. Chair’s Report - No Report

12. Executive Director’s Report - No Report

13. Outgoing Chair’s Report - Commissioner Bill Dodson

It has been an honor to serve as your Chair this past year. Since joining the Council in 2002 I have had the pleasure of working with a great group of folks who have been dedicated to their communities, this Council and the Region. Whenever an organization like the Regional Planning Council serves its constituency for nearly 50 years its longevity speaks to the dedication and purpose of its mission.
I want to thank each of you for understanding the importance of coming together as a region and working together beyond jurisdictional boundaries. I also want to thank each of you for graciously giving your time to serve your cities, counties, and the region. Each of you are leaders in your own communities and we are very lucky to have such a wide spectrum of expertise represented on this board.

I would also like to thank my fellow officers, Commissioner Jack Mariano and Ms. Jill Collins. Last year, when I accepted the gavel, I nicknamed my fellow officers Jack and Jill. My comment drew laughter from Jack and Jill and many of you. As we tackled some very challenging, and not always humorous issues it was that sense of humor among us and the staff that carried me through and made my year as your Chair such an enjoyable experience. I want to thank you Jack, and even though Jill is not able to be with us today I would like to thank her as well, for their great sense of humor, their expertise, and their dedication to this organization. Please give them a round of applause.

And without hesitation, I want to thank our Executive Director and the staff of the Regional Planning Council. Their year’s of tenure at the Council has provided stability to this organization. It is we, the elected and appointed officials which keep changing. I have admired your abilities, dedication, and spirit. Please give them a round of applause.

When I accepted the gavel last December our cities and counties had begun to experience an unprecedented economic downturn, which is still occurring today. I challenged the Council to continue to use resources wisely and in a fiscally responsible manner. I am happy to report that tasks were streamlined to provide our member governments with effective work products and attentive service. Part of those efforts was to build on the current programs of the Council and to limit any new initiatives to what was fiscally sound and fell within the scope of the Council’s mission.

With that goal in mind we took some cost saving measures by doing more of our activities online and through our web site. After surveying our membership, most of you agreed to receive your monthly agenda via email. This was a significant savings in postage, staff time, and paper costs. The postage alone is approximately $2,000 a year in savings for just the Council agenda mail out.

And as announced earlier, the 2009 Annual Report has been published to the web site instead of absorbing the costs of printing the magazine. It can be viewed or downloaded and printed at the viewer’s discretion. The Regional Directory has also gone “green.” It is available on the web site and can be downloaded and printed. These changes saved the Council $15,000 this past year.

Speaking of going green, there is now new landscaping around the building. The original landscaping had run its course and staff worked with a native Florida plant specialist to design the landscaping. All of the plants are native and drought tolerant.

We reduced our meeting schedule from 12 meetings per year to 10 meetings and I believe we are
just as effective as before, and took less of your time and the staff’s time.

We continued our important work on the One Bay Visioning initiative and the Statewide Regional Evacuation Study. These important initiatives will continue in 2010. The incoming Chair can tell you what he has in mind for these two projects.

One of the highlights of my year as Chair was to moderate the Senate Bill 360 Workshop. With a capacity crowd, the workshop included a distinguished panel of invited speakers who shared their thoughts and opinions on the newly enacted legislation. For those that attended we gained a lot of insight into the various aspects of this new legislation.

Finally, it is exciting for our region to have been tentatively awarded the National Association of Regional Council’s Annual Conference in 2012. We are currently gathering Resolutions of support from our member governments and expect to make the formal presentation to the NARC Board in February. This annual conference will have a positive economic impact upon our region and will provide the Council and our member governments with national exposure regarding our best practices, projects and programs.

In closing I would like to thank each of you and the dedicated Council staff for the opportunity to serve as your Chair.

14. Installation of Officers
Ms. Diane Corna, City Clerk for the City of Pinellas Park, administered the Oath of Office to Commissioner Mariano, Chair; and Commissioner Bustle, Secretary/Treasurer. Commissioner Dodson passed the gavel to Commissioner Mariano.

Incoming Chair Mariano presented a Snow Globe to Ms. Corna in thanks of her service.

Chair Mariano thanked and honored the immediate Past Chair, Commissioner Dodson. Throughout this past year and throughout his tenure with the Council he has always represented us in the best possible fashion. His wealth of experience in local government and his sense of humor are assets that have provided this Council with great leadership. He also managed to finish our meetings on time and by noon, even with a loaded agenda.

Chair Mariano presented a wall clock to Commissioner Dodson as a token of appreciation for dedicated service as the 2009 Chair.

15. Incoming Chair’s Report - Commissioner Jack Mariano
It is an honor to be elected to serve as the Chair. Since joining the Council in 2006 I have had the pleasure of observing and learning from several folks that held this position before me who provided me with great role models for my tenure.
Over the past few years I have also had the opportunity to get to know our Executive Director and staff and all of their competent efforts to implement the Council’s mission and initiatives. It will be a pleasure to continue to work with them on leading issues such as the One Bay effort and the Statewide Regional Evacuation Plan.

As you are aware, One Bay is utilizing citizen, local governments, and stakeholder input to draft a One Bay Scenario and Recommendations for the region to embrace smarter growth principles. These recommendations, along with implementing strategies, are currently being developed and reviewed with key stakeholders. One Bay will be hosting an implementation summit in February (changed to April 16). Following the summit the Council will be using those recommendations to update the Strategic Regional Policy Plan.

We will continue to work with our local governments and our stakeholders to foster collaboration in fulfilling the recommendations in the One Bay Vision.

A critical component in fulfilling the One Bay Vision, and fueling the economy of our region, is the issue of transit. The recent Special Legislative Session produced a comprehensive rail policy with a commitment to all types of transit options. This has certainly been a long time in the making, but this new legislation is the beginning of a strong economic future for our state and our region.

We will continue our efforts on the Statewide Regional Evacuation Plan. Council staff has provided leadership on this unprecedented strategy to update all of Florida’s evacuation plans in a consistent and coordinated manner. This report is expected to be completed in May.

The state of Florida has also contracted with the Council to develop a catastrophic plan for the Tampa Bay area, including the nine counties within the footprint of the Regional Domestic Security Task Force, called Project Phoenix. A summit will be held January 5-6 at the Quorum Hotel in Tampa to bring stakeholders together to kick off the effort.

One final initiative I would like to mention is our potential EDA grant to produce a Targeted Cluster and Workforce Skills Study for the region. If funded, the Cluster Study will identify the employment sectors and industry types that the region’s economic development leaders should work to recruit to the Tampa Bay area.

Besides working on these important issues, my goal is to continue on a steady course through these uncertain economic times. Commissioner Dodson, Mr. Pumariaga, and the Council staff did a great job this past year continuing the work of the Council and supporting those projects and programs that were already in place. Thank you for all of your hard work.

Last but not least, I would like to thank everyone for their service to the Council. We are privileged to have such a wide spectrum of expertise represented on this board. Your contributions and support continue to elevate the Council to new heights regarding regional issues and regional leadership. I look forward to working with each of you as we embark upon our 48th year in
regional planning.

There will not be a meeting in January.

Next meeting, February 9, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: 11:20 a.m.

Jack Mariano, Chair

Lori Denman, Recording Secretary