



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard #100 · Pinellas Park, FL 33782
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<http://www.tbrpc.org/abm>

MEETING AGENDA

May 10, 2018
9:00 AM

Natural Resources/Environmental Impact and Habitat Restoration Subcommittees
Tom Ash, Chair of NR/EI
Peter Clark, Chair of HR

1. CALL TO ORDER / WELCOME

2. PUBLIC COMMENT/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

3. FISH USAGE OF TAMPA BAY'S HARD-BOTTOM HABITATS- Kerry Flaherty-Walia, *Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission*

Hard-bottom habitats such as corals, sponges, limestone ledges and artificial reefs are known to support diverse fish communities in offshore areas of the Gulf of Mexico. Less is known about inshore, hard-bottom habitats within Tampa Bay. This study was designed to answer research questions about (1) the distribution of hard bottom habitats in Tampa Bay, (2) the fish species that are using these habitats, (3) the temporal and spatial use of these habitats by fish and finally (4) how fish use these hard bottom habitats in comparison to other habitats within Tampa Bay.

4. EXPANSION OF THE MOTUS WILDLIFE TRACKING SYSTEM IN TAMPA BAY- Dr. Beth Forsys, Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, *Eckerd College*

The Motus Wildlife Tracking System is a collaborative research network that uses coordinated automated radio telemetry arrays to study movements of animals fitted with nano-tags. As of February 2017, over 350 receiving stations were active across the Western Hemisphere. In 2017, Pinellas County built a tower at Fort De Soto with 3 antenna, and several migrating birds have been detected as they moved from Canada to South America. This summer nano-tags will be glued to the backs of some of our local birds, Black Skimmers, and we hope the Fort De Soto towers and others recently erected in Florida will record their movements, giving us further insight into this imperiled species' habitat requirements.

5. ROBINSON PRESERVE EXPANSION HABITAT RESTORATION - Damon Moore, *Manatee County*

Through a donation of land by the Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast in 2013, Robinson Preserve in Western Manatee County was expanded by 150 acres. The 150 acre expansion is undergoing a transformation to re-introduce desirable and ecologically productive habitats to the landscape while also providing appropriate recreational amenities. Once destined to become another coastal development, this area will support wetland and upland habitats from oysterbeds to pine flatwoods. This presentation will overview the restoration design process and provide an update on the status of the project.

6. OTHER ITEMS

- a. Tampa Bay Regional Resiliency Coalition
- b. Bay Soundings Article Ideas

7. ADJOURN

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