

Stormwater Management Public Education & Training Committee Meeting Summary

Date: January 14, 2020, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Location: TBRPC offices

Meeting Facilitator: CJ Reynolds, TBRPC, director of Resiliency and Engagement

Participants:

- FDOT: John Iten
- Hillsborough County: Garrison Beck
- Pasco County: Ivy Harris, Christine Lynch
- Pinellas County: Anamarie Riviera, Joey Thames
- City of St. Petersburg: Melinda Spall
- City of Tampa: Heather Maggio
- City of Tarpon Springs: Ralph Oswald
- City of Pinellas Park: Barbara Dunn
- City of Seminole
- MOSI: Urmila Wadnerkar
- Tampa Bay Estuary Program: Joe Whalen
- Tampa Bay Watch: Melanie Grillone
- FWC: Ryan Druyor
- Bay Soundings: Viki Parsons

Reynolds opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. No public was present. The participants provided brief updates on funded projects, new materials for other stormwater projects. Reynolds provided an overview of resilience initiatives and connections to storm water. Reynolds also informed the Committee that Heather Young was no longer with the TBRPC, and that the job description for the position has been created and would be posted shortly. The members offered to help circulate the posting.

The Committee members then brought up new topics and ideas and discussed specific programs and potential collaboration for 2020.

- Stormwater ponds were mentioned by Hillsborough, FDOT and others.
- Healthy Ponds Program. Garrison Beck, Hillsborough County mentioned the UF IFAS was developing a new certification program “Healthy Ponds.” <http://vsnews.com/healthy-ponds-for-healthy-environments/>. The group agreed that it would be good to have a presentation at the next meeting. After the Committee meeting, Garrison reached out to the project lead, Abbey Tyrna, a Water Resources Agent at UF/IFAS based in Sarasota.

She was very excited to present to the Committee, and is available for the May 19 meeting. They are piloting the Healthy Ponds course in late March. It will be offered for free, but they will be requesting a good amount of feedback. Anyone interested in participating can email her directly: atyrna@ufl.edu.

- UF IAFAS is also working on a Stormwater Pond Habitat Assessment tool, which can be found here: <http://tinyurl.com/stormwaterpondassessment> From Abbey: “The Stormwater Pond Habitat Assessment was developed for any pond manager including HOA Pond Committee members, municipalities, technicians hired by pond owners, and pond owners themselves. The intent was to provide a tool that would simultaneously rank ponds and communicate the conditions of an optimal pond for Florida wildlife. The assessment enables managers and owners of multiple ponds to spend precious resources according to ranking. Yes, please share. I welcome any and all feedback to improve the assessment.”
- Additional discussion about stormwater ponds and related infrastructure is increasingly important as a resilience strategy to reduce flooding.
- John Iten and several committee members indicated that there is a need to develop education and messaging to support positive public perception related to designs, plants that are useful but “ugly,” maintenance.
- Trash bins, frequency of waste pick-up and impacts on littering: discussion about the types of bins, locations and volume of trash and interactions.
- Integrating Resilience information into Stormwater Education Efforts. Heather Maggio commented that the Committee members conduct many activities to educate the community public and asked that the TBRPC and Coalition provide standard copy about resilience which can be included in the outreach efforts and websites.
- Water goats and containment tools – question about lifespan of “water goats”. St. Petersburg is considering a sock for a pilot projects. Pasco has looked at socks but noted that the site constraints and maintenance needs to be understood before deciding to install.
- The Statewide Marine Debris Reduction Plan: Reynolds indicated that the updated plan will be released in 2020 and has defined Community Action goals which relate to stormwater programs and community engagement. The Reduction Plan was developed by multiple state agencies and stakeholder organizations with support from NOAA and TBRPC and FWC staff were involved in the planning process. Reynolds will identify a speaker and status of the Plan for a future meeting.
- Strategic Planning Discussion: The group expressed interest in defining high priority issues and opportunities which would enhance local efforts through effective regional collaboration. At the March meeting, TBRPC will facilitate a discussion to define key issues/ topic categories.

Local Government Project Updates and Materials/Information

Pinellas County new Fertilizer-Free Zone doorhanger:

http://www.pinellascounty.org/environment/watershed/pdf/beach_fert_free_zone.pdf

All incorporated and unincorporated areas are included in the Pinellas County Fertilizer Ordinance. If you would like to print quantities for your community, contact Anamarie Riviera arivera@co.pinellas.fl.us for the print-ready file. The County can distribute only in unincorporated areas because printing was paid by Pinellas County.

Pinellas County obtains quotes from Skyway Signs & Wraps and Sign Age of Tampa Bay.

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(727) 692-2786

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Next Meeting Dates

1. Tuesday March 17, 2020
2. Tuesday 19
3. July 14 or July 21
4. Fall date TBD