



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard #100 · Pinellas Park, FL
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727.570.5151 Ext. 40
<http://www.tbrpc.org/abm>

MEETING MINUTES

Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee

August 11, 2021, 1:00 PM

Meeting location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

[Meeting Recording Available Online](#)

Tom Ash, Chair

1. Call To Order / Welcome

Chair Tom Ash called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

2. Public Comment / Announcements

No public comment or announcements

3. Whiskey Joe's Shoreline Protection Project – *Kevin M. Kremkau, Gahagan and Bryant Associates, Inc.*

Mr. Kevin Kremkau presented a shoreline protection project proposal for the Whiskey Joe's Tampa restaurant along Tampa Bay. Significant erosion has occurred along the southern and eastern shorelines surrounding the restaurant, which has led to concerns regarding the undermining of the restaurant's pile foundation and extensive rotting and corrosion of building's mechanical and electrical utilities that are exposed to direct wave action. An assessment of current conditions of the shoreline around the restaurant was completed to provide coastal engineering services for the design and permitting of this project. Elements of this shore protection project include a 412-ft-long vinyl sheet pile seawall, beach compatible fill reinforced with native planting, rip rap toe protection, and habitat enhancing oyster bags.

Comments:

Ms. Maya Burke asked whether Whiskey Joes would be interested in partnering with the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to disseminate educational materials on propeller scarring for their new public outreach campaign. Mr. Kremkau will be connecting Ms. Burke to the Whiskey Joes Regional Brand Manager. Mr. Aaron Brown asked whether there are plans to use oyster shells to fill in the slope and decrease the chance of pinch out along the vertical face of the seawall. Mr. Kremkau noted that there will only be two feet of exposed seawall and there is no plan in place since they do not expect any impacts to the shoreline. Mr. Brown asked about the plants that will be added to the shoreline and why the seawall seems to end abruptly on the east of the property. That side of Sloppy Joes is part of the serving area, with chairs and firepits. There are still details to be determined, but they will not be planting mangroves. Ms. Burke also cautioned the group about planting mangroves

since they are doing well naturally recruiting, and there are still scientific questions about the relationship between mangrove leaf litter and the nutrients they make available for *Pyrodinium bahamense* blooms.

4. Red Tide in the Tampa Bay Region – Maya Burke, Tampa Bay Estuary Program

Ms. Maya Burke provided an overview of the 2021 red tide event and led a discussion about the ways the ABM can address these types of issues. Ms. Burke presented a timeline of events beginning with the Piney Point discharge in March and following the observations of red tide conditions through the summer. Current monitoring data show conditions have alleviated in Tampa Bay, but several hotspots of algae in Old Tampa Bay and Hillsborough Bay remain (including *Pyrodinium bahamense* in OTB and *Triplos hircus* and *Prorocentrum* sp. in Hillsborough Bay). Ms. Burke highlighted some of the ways that the ABM can help, including coordination and impact reporting (tell the story of red tide - uniform data sources synthesized in easy-to-digest formats), human health effects (disseminating opportunities to participate in research, e.g. current Roskamp study), Fish removal and other research that the ABM can support, Piney Point closure and facilitating community conversations, and nutrient reductions (fertilizer ordinances, private sewer laterals, etc.).

Comments:

Mr. John Ovink asked whether the [presentation](#) and graphics will be available online, which you can find at: <https://www.tbrpc.org/abm-meeting-agendas/>. Mr. Ovink commented on the need for more management options for Piney Point beyond treatment and then injection and/or surface water discharge, and he asked about the state of research on the return of fish and seagrass response to Tampa Bay. Ms. Burke summarized current seagrass monitoring efforts and indicated that TBEP and other researchers are not seeing troubling seagrass trends but they are seeing shifts in macroalgae. TBEP will continue to update the Tampa Bay Nekton Index annually to document the health of fish in Tampa Bay and any impacts they may have suffered from recent events. Chair Ash commented on the snook he recently observed at the Gandy bridge, and he summarized the waves of dead fish that he noticed in this red tide event beginning with bait fish to game fish and then bottom dwellers, indicating larger fish had some time to leave the area. Mr. Kevin Sheltonj asked about the TBEP “Pipe Up” Campaign for sewer laterals and whether it will address septic systems. Ms. Burke responded that the campaign targets people who have not maintained their private lateral line to the public collection system and septic systems are not part of the campaign, but septic systems remain part of their legislative priorities.

5. NR/EIR Committee Strategic Planning – Tom Ash, Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County

Chair Ash led a discussion on the strategic planning for the Natural Resources/Environmental Impact Review Committee. He has chaired the Committee since 2009, but he is retiring in May 2022. Members reviewed the ABM-specific [CCMP](#) activities that were prioritized for the Committee – [Link to results](#).

Comments:

Mr. Dan Savercool stated that the group would benefit from revisiting its roots which are to provide advice the Regional Planning Council about natural resources within the region, focusing on proposed development activities that would affect those resources. The



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TBRPC's body of scientists for technical advice is the ABM. Mr. Savercool also recommended proactive planning that will produce natural resource benefits. Chair Ash highlighted the usefulness of the TBRPC's economic valuation study for Tampa Bay in communicating hard numbers to elected officials. Ms. Alana Todd reported the recent TBERF award for the TBRPC to redo this economic study. Mr. Shawn College commented on the need for ABM members to go back to local governments to help with action. For instance, a recommendation from the NR/EIR Committee on Piney Point could go to the Full ABM, ABM could ask local governments (via a letter) to make lobbying the State for its closure a priority in the individual local government's lobbying campaigns, which might encourage action. There needs to be a mechanism going back through ABM to local governments and/or the State to close the loop and move from discussion to action. Ms. Vicki Gambale stated that a potential role for the NR/EIR Committee could be to garner public support for the actions supported by the ABM and implemented by the local governments. Mr. Kevin Shelton added that his clients often suggest better management options which are often rejected due to existing rules. He sees the need to reduce existing bureaucratic obstacles for innovative mitigation measures. Ms. Todd asked about the ways in which the ABM could gather public support for initiatives. Ms. Gambale added that the ABM could help in developing a cohesive message and action items, asking "what is the issue?" "why do they care?" and "what can they do about it?" Ms. Maggio added that there is already a committee concentrated on environmental education in Tampa Bay, so it isn't appropriate for the ABM. Mr. Aaron Brown commented on the need for a formalized workflow that defines member responsibilities as action items are developed. Ms. Burke agreed with the need for a defined workflow so members can take the information learned at the ABM and advance it within their respective organizations. There is a need in meetings to identify information or resources members need to advance issues in their organizations. Ms. Maggio cautioned against duplicating efforts with other groups, such as the FSA September workshop on green infrastructure.

6. Other Items

- a. Next Meeting dates and topic ideas
 - The NR/EIR Committee agreed to quarterly meetings on Wednesdays.
- b. Bay Soundings article ideas

7. Adjourn

Chair Ash adjourned the meeting at 2:33 PM