



AGENCY ON BAY MANAGEMENT

4000 Gateway Centre Boulevard #100 · Pinellas Park, FL 33782

727.570.5151 Ext. 40

<http://www.tbrpc.org/abm>

MEETING MINUTES

Full Agency

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 9:00 AM

Meeting Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

[Meeting Recording Available Online](#)

Ms. Barbara Sheen Todd, Chair

Mayor Woody Brown, Co-Chair

1. Call To Order / Attendance

Chair Barbara Todd called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Present:

Audubon Florida – Mark Rachal

Sierra Club – Nancy Stevens

Tampa Bay Conservancy – Sally
Thompson

Tampa Bay Watch – Serra Herndon

Joe Island Clams (Commercial Fishing) –
DJ Strott

Wood (Environmental Consulting) –
Kevin Shelton

Tampa Bay Pilots Association – Terry
Fluke

UF IFAS/FL Sea Grant – Libby Carnahan

USF – Steven Meyers

University of Tampa – Aaron Brown

Eckerd College – Amy Siuda

Hillsborough Elected – Megan Nixon

Hillsborough Staff – David Glicksberg

Manatee Staff – Rob Brown

Pasco Staff – Rene Brown

Pinellas Elected – Charlie Justice

Manatee Port Authority – George
Isiminger

City of Tampa – Heather Maggio

City of Clearwater – Sarah Kessler

Chair – Barbara Sheen Todd

Vice-Chair – Woody Brown

NOAA – Mark Sramek

FDEP – Shannon Herbon

FWRI – Bradley Furman

FDOT – Allison Conner

Hillsborough at Large – Ann Paul

Pinellas at Large – George Henderson

Hillsborough County Planning
Commission – Shawn College

Tampa Bay Estuary Program – Ed
Sherwood

USFWS – Tiffany Lane

MacDill AFB – Andy Lykens

Tampa Bay Water – Bob McConnell

Others in Attendance:

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.

Tom Pride – KCA; Alana Todd – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Cara Serra – Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Sean Sullivan - Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Maya Burke – Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Sara Brehm – Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves/FDEP; Jeff Liechty – Audubon Florida; David Karlen – EPC of Hillsborough County; Sandra Reed – Tampa Audubon Society; Karli Spurgin – FWC; McLane Evans – City of Tampa; Dan Savercool – Tampa Bay Conservancy; Rebecca Schneider – FWC; Fara Ilami – FWC; Mandy Clark – City of Oldsmar; Steve Swanson – St. Pete Audubon; Vicki Parsons – Bay Soundings; Tatiana Childress; Randy Runnels – Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves; Oleg P Martens; Mandi Clark; Bruce Hasbrouck; Sandra Reed; Zack Sampson – Tampa Bay Times; Courtney Vandenberg – Pinellas; Clyde Joseph – Manatee Port Authority; Melissa H; Jose De Jesus; Eric Seidel

2. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

3. Announcements

No announcements were made.

4. Approval Of June 10, 2021 Full Agency Meeting Minutes

Motioned by Vice Chair Brown and seconded by Commissioner Charlie Justice; the previous meeting minutes were approved unanimously

5. Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for US 92/SR 600/Gandy Boulevard – Craig Fox, Florida Department of Transportation

The FDOT District 7 is conducting a Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study for US 92/SR 600/Gandy Boulevard, from 4th St. on the west in Pinellas County to Westshore Blvd. in Hillsborough County (approx. 7 mi.). The study will evaluate capacity improvements (i.e., roadway widening) and the addition of bicycle and pedestrian facilities within the study limits. Bridge widening or replacement in addition to a grade separated overpass at Brighton Bay Blvd. may also be evaluated. The objective of the project is to develop and evaluate “build” alternatives and provide the environmental and engineering analyses and documentation for the FDOT to reach a decision on the type, conceptual design, and location of the improvements. The “No-Build” or “No Action” alternative remains a viable option throughout the PD&E Study. The Department is concurrently preparing the design phase plans for Gandy Boulevard from 4th St. to west of Gandy Bridge for this project up to 15% line and grade plans. The PD&E Study will also assess whether to bridge portion(s) of the Gandy Causeway in Pinellas County to improve tidal exchange, water quality, and the overall ecological condition of this portion of Old Tampa Bay.

Comments:

Ms. Libby Carnahan asked about the extent to which FDOT considers the evacuation of Pinellas County in their design. Mr. Craig Fox replied that traffic would not require a 6-lane bridge in 2045, and hurricane evacuation predictions show that the areas of greatest need for roadway improvements are the Courtney Campbell Bridge and the Howard Frankland Bridge (currently under construction). For Gandy Blvd, the greatest need for evacuation improvements is on the Pinellas roadway segment, not the bridge. Chair Todd asked to what extent attention would be paid to the trail. Mr. Fox responded that FDOT would be reconstructing the trail on the north side of Gandy Blvd, and a trail would be added on the south side of Gandy Blvd that extends across the causeway and bridge. FDOT is exploring options to reconstruct the bridge, which would include a trail across Old Tampa Bay, or potentially building an independent trail structure. FDOT is working with the City of Tampa who will be able to loop a trail beneath the East Gandy End Bridge. Mr. Ed Sherwood encouraged the FDOT to consider improvements to Old Tampa Bay

water circulation to help water quality. Ms. Ann Paul asked whether the plan includes improvements to the beach area on the south side of the Pinellas segment. Mr. Fox explained that the beach land is owned by FDOT but it doesn't function as an official park. The FDOT has committed to still allowing access to the beach facilities and making roadway improvements, but visitors have been creating openings by cutting down the protected mangroves. FDOT is pursuing a local agreement for the beach area to function as a local park, otherwise FDOT will retain maintenance of the park and they might have to shift the access area to protect the mangroves. Ms. Maya Burke encouraged the FDOT to apply the lessons learned from the Courtney Campbell bike/ped bridge, which had user conflicts (shore-based fishermen) during construction. Ms. Carnahan asked about the current considerations being made regarding the bridge's elevation and projected sea level rise. Mr. Fox responded that sea level rise is considered when determining the bridge height, and that part of the design process has yet to come.

6. Reginal Resiliency Action Plan – Cara Serra, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council

Ms. Cara Serra will share an update on the [Reginal Resiliency Action Plan](#), and get feedback on actions that will intersect with the priorities of the ABM.

Comments:

Chair Todd asked about the plan's process in the short and long-term. Ms. Cara Serra replied that the TBRPC will still be gathering feedback until the end of the year, the resiliency summit is planned for January 2022, and staff will be gathering citizen feedback via a MetroQuest survey and 30-day comment period. Ms. Serra expects Council adoption in Spring 2022, and implementation will occur over the next four years. The draft chapters can be found at <https://www.tbrpc.org/resiliencyplan/resiliency-action-plan-draft/>.

7. Hooked Pelican Working Group – Guy Carpenter, Fara Ilami, Brendan O'Connor, Becky Schneider, Nancy Sheridan, and Kali Spurgin (Steering Committee), Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

Entanglement and feeding are ongoing issues for brown pelicans and other seabirds at public fishing areas around the state and the conflict is particularly challenging in the Tampa Bay area, notably the South Skyway State Park Fishing Pier. The FWC recognizes that coordinated outreach with agency partners, stakeholders including bird conservationists and anglers, and the general public is necessary to address the issue. The FWC has established a steering committee, composed of regional experts in the Divisions of Habitat and Species Conservation, Marine Fisheries Management, and Law Enforcement to lead an interagency regional Hooked Pelican Working Group. The FWC expanded working group participation to conservation partners who are also invested in this issue by holding the first working group meeting in June 2021. The purpose of the working group will be to provide long-term coordination and guidance on managing the entangled pelican issue at multiple sites throughout the region. The FWC is pleased to have the involvement and active working group member participation from multidisciplinary partners and organized citizen groups. This talk introduced the Hooked Pelican Working Group and their initiative to the ABM.

Comments:

Mr. Randy Runnels asked whether the Working Group has considered adding the Riverside Park boat ramp area in Palmetto to their list of problem areas. Ms. Becky Schneider responded that they will add that area to their list of concerns. Mr. Runnels asked about releasing rehabbed pelicans at Terra Ceia (Washburn Sanctuary) and whether there are any indications that would encourage the birds to nest there. Ms. Schneider encouraged rehabilitation centers to stay in compliance with their permits for transporting and releasing protected wildlife, and she urged caution in solely looking at predator pressure to determine the impacts on nesting sites. The workgroup has a research focus, so if this area of research is needed then the group can investigate further.

8. Other Items

- a.** Bay Soundings article ideas
- b.** Topic ideas for the next meeting
- c.** Announcements
 - The Florida Birding and Nature Festival is still scheduled for October 15-17.
 - The BASIS7-ANEP has been postponed to Spring 2022 (exact dates TBD).
 - The Tampa Bay Estuary Program will be celebrating its 30th anniversary social on October 21 6 PM-9 PM outdoors at the Tampa Bay Watch Discovery Center.
 - The TBRPC will be developing a Resilient Shorelines Policy Guide. Those interested in participating and providing input should contact Cara Serra at Cara@tbrpc.org.
- d.** Next meeting dates (Full Agency)
 - December 9, 2021

9. Adjourn

Chair Barbara Todd adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM