



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, December 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/Welcome

Chair Barbara Todd called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

2. Attendance

Present:

Friends of the Hillsborough River – Rich Brown

Sierra Club – Nancy Stevens

Tampa Bay Conservancy – Sally Thompson

Tampa Bay Watch – Melanie Grillone

Commercial Fishing – Jodi Williams

Gulfstream Natural Gas – Shawn Deutscher

Mosaic Company – Tino Provenzano

Tampa Electric Company – Nick Fletcher

UF IFAS/FL Sea Grant – Libby Carnahan

USF College of Marine Science/PORTS – Mark Luther

Hillsborough County (Staff) – David Glicksberg

Hillsborough County (Elected) – Megan Nixon

Pasco County (Staff) – Rene Brown

Pinellas County (Staff) – Stacey Day

Pinellas County (Elected) – Charlie Justice

Port Tampa Bay – Chris Cooley

Manatee Port Authority – George Isiminger

City of St. Petersburg – Michael Perry

City of Tampa – Heather Maggio

City of Clearwater – Sarah Kessler

Chair – Barbara Todd

Vice-Chair – Woody Brown

US Army Corps of Engineers – Aubree Hershorin

US Geological Survey – Kevin Grimsley

NOAA – Mark Sramek

FL Dept. of Environmental Protection – Shannon Herbon

FWC/FWRI – Ryan Moyer

FL Dept. of Transportation – Allison Conner

Southwest FL Water Management District – Chris Anastasiou

Pinellas County at Large – George Henderson

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EPC of Hillsborough County – Tom Ash
Hillsborough County Planning
Commission – Shawn College
Tampa Bay Estuary Program – Ed
Sherwood

US Fish and Wildlife Service – Tiffany
Lane
MacDill Air Force Base – Andy Lykens
Tampa Bay Water – Bob McConnell

Others in Attendance:

Alana Todd – TBRPC; Christin Meilink – FDEP; Barbara Goetting – EPCHC; Maribel Medina – Tampa Bay Water; Lizanne Garcia – SWFWMD; Vicki Gambale – FL Sea Grant; Ashlee Painter – City of Oldsmar; Chris Pratt – EPCHC; Bobby Burchett; Cynthia Grizzle – Environmental Sciences; Brandon Moore – Tampa Bay Water; Nancy Sheridan – FWC; Randy Runnels – Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves; Bruce Hasbrouck – Faller, Davis & Associates, Inc.; Lara Milligan – UF IFAS/FL Sea Grant; Michelle Robinson; Vicki Parsons – Bay Soundings; Michelle Sempsrott – FWC; Chris Claus – City of St. Pete; Randy Deshazo – TBRPC; Kelly Thomas – City of St. Pete; Bill Fehring; Steven Meyers – USF; Wren Krahl – TBRPC; Jessica Lewis – Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Karen Mullins – Forward Pinellas; Diego Guerra – Hillsborough County Planning Commission; Clyde Joseph – Manatee Port Authority; Bob Woithe – Environmental Science Assoc.; Brendan Myers – USFWS; John McGee – City of Plant City

3. Public Comment

No public comments were made.

4. Announcements

The Agency watched [How to Rescue a Hooked Pelican](#) video.

5. Approval Of September 9, 2021 Full Agency Meeting Minutes

6. ABM Committee meeting updates

a. Legislative Review Committee

This year, the Legislative Review Committee will focus on tracking relevant bills to Tampa Bay (at the federal, state, and local level), developing the committee and membership, and getting prepared for next year's session by strengthening our knowledge of the bills and processes.

7. SWIM Plan Update – Lizanne Garcia, Southwest Florida Water Management District

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) is updating the Tampa Bay Surface Water Improvement and Management (SWIM) plan, which was last updated in 1999. This presentation provided an overview of the SWIM Program, the process SWIM is following to develop the update to the SWIM Plan, and elements included in a SWIM Plan. The focus of the SWIM Plan update is to identify Tampa Bay projects and initiatives that the District can implement to protect and restore Tampa Bay. A draft SWIM plan is expected by Winter 2022.

Chris Anastasiou, SWFWMD, provided an update on SWFWMD's FY2022 seagrass mapping acquisition efforts. This year's flight window is Dec. 1 – Feb. 28, and the camera being used will produce higher resolution imagery (6-in pixel) compared to previous years (1-ft pixel resolution). Results are expected by mid-2022.

Comments:

- Members asked about the influence of fog on the aerial flights, which has been a nonissue thus far. Typically, 10-15 percent of flight lines have to be re-flown.



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- USF Center for Ocean Mapping is performing a high-resolution multibeam bathymetry survey between Egmont Key and John's Pass and up into the shallow areas of Boca Ciega Bay using an uncrewed, remote controlled surface vessel (drone boat). Fugro GEOS's plane will capture high-resolution lidar mapping in January, which will be overlapped with the drone boat surveys. The center is working with Dr. Anastasiou's group to blend data and improve the seagrass surveys.
- SWFWMD is cognizant of the potential impacts of the improved resolution on seagrass coverage numbers, which is why they will be doing comparisons to previous years' imagery.

8. Tampa Bay Water Master Water Plan & Desal Update – Maribel Medina, Tampa Bay Water

Tampa Bay Water, the region's wholesale drinking water supplier, is currently investigating three projects to meet the region's drinking water needs in the 2028 timeframe. Maribel Medina, P.E., PMP, Planning and Projects Manager for Tampa Bay Water, provided an update on their Master Water Plan efforts, highlighting changes to the Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Plant due to Tampa Electric's modernization project at its Big Bend Power Station.

To meet growing demand, Tampa Bay Water will need to develop an additional 10-20 million gallons per day of new water supply by 2028 (current production is 180 mgd). They are addressing this need on both the demand side, such as the Tampa Bay Water Wise Rebate Program, and the supply side, such as a new a new groundwater wellfield via aquifer recharge credits and expanding existing surface water treatment capacity and seawater desalination capacity.

Comments:

- When the initial study for the desalination plant and other surface water diversion projects was conducted 20 years ago, they assumed worst case scenario that only two of the cooling units at TECO were in operation, so those results shouldn't change too much although models are higher resolution now. Dr. Mark Luther expressed interest in comparing Tampa Bay Water's 10 years' + worth of monitoring data to his model predictions from 20 years ago.
- Members asked about the wellfield expansion in the south Hillsborough area and how it fits into the Southern Water Use Caution Area (SWUCA) and most impacted area Recovery Strategies. The Wellfield will rely on the injection of reclaimed water being done by Hillsborough County, and preliminary modeling suggests 60% recovery from the injection of reclaimed water. This modeling addresses the allocation of the 10% of reclaimed water being injected for SWUCA recovery.
- Another question related to the surface water expansion and whether the 10 to 15 mgd is represented in the current permit conditions for a river intake or whether there is a need to expand permit conditions for surface water intake with the expansion of the

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plant. Tampa Bay Water is relying on existing permitted capacity from the intakes of the rivers at this point and they are not proposing any permit changes.

- Members asked about the anticipated impacts on water reliability once desal tunnel 3 is retired. Once Tampa Bay Water completes the connection between tunnels 1 and 4, they do not anticipate water supply limitations, however there will be discharge limitations with the current NPDES permit. The current feasibility study being done by Tampa Bay Water is exploring additional options.

9. Introduction to Clean Vessel Act Education Coordinator – Vicki Gambale, Florida Sea Grant

As the state's Clean Vessel Act Education Coordinator, Victoria Gambale works collaboratively with the recreational boating community to reduce boat-based pollution. Her efforts are currently focused on preventing the discharge of sewage from recreational boats and getting the state of Florida on the national [Pumpout Nav app](#). She also has plans to conduct a Clean Vessel Act Resource and Needs Assessment to ensure there are sufficient sewage resources availability to the boating community throughout the state.

Comments:

- Members asked whether Ms. Gambale is working with commercial maritime operations considering Tampa Bay is the largest port in Florida. Clean Vessel Act funds apply strictly to recreational boating, which may include some boats that service the recreational community such as charters. Funds come from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund taxes on rods, reels, power boat engines, etc., so efforts must go towards serving the community that is paying.
- Members asked about the process for establishing No Discharge Zones and which entities are able to request new Zones be established. The only way is for the State to request the EPA for new Zones. Currently, aquatic preserves are not recognized as NO Discharge Zones by the EPA. All aquatic preserves are by default Outstanding Florida Waters and that comes with a zero degradation rule which prohibits the degradation of water quality above ambient.
- FWC (in accordance with SB 1080 from several years ago) is planning to conduct a study regarding mapping pumpout stations and understanding where the needs are based on hotspots, and then they will file a request for No Discharge Zones.
- It was noted that the Clean Vessel Act funding can apply to repairing lateral lines connected to pumpout facilities.

10. Other Items

a. Bay Soundings article ideas

Randy Runnels (Tampa Bay Aquatic Preserves) reported their efforts to set up 50-meter bird buoy buffers around rookery islands in Tampa Bay, which seems effective thus far in reducing flushing from boats.

b. Topic ideas for the next meeting

c. Next meeting dates

- January 13, 2022, 2pm– Legislative Review
- March 10, 2022, 9am– Full Agency



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- June 9, 2022, 9am – Full Agency
- September 8, 2022, 9am – Full Agency
- December 8, 2022, 9am – Full Agency

11. Adjourn

Chair Todd adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM