

**CITY OF TEMPLE TERRACE, FLORIDA  
RIVER WATCH TASK FORCE  
REPORT OF MEETING**

**Monday, August 17, 2009  
Council Workroom  
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, August 17, 2009, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

**PRESENT WERE:** Task Force Chairman Ronald Smith, and Task Force Member Westberry.  
**ABSENT WERE:** Task Force Members Frank Chillura, Terry McMahon, and David Pogorilich.

**ALSO PRESENT WERE:** Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Staff Member Carl Avari-Cooper, Dr. Marty Kelly, Sandra E. Anderson, Cliff Harrison, and John A. Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

**1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:**

Approval of minutes was tabled until next meeting due to no quorum.

**Persons Wishing to be Heard on Items NOT Listed on the Agenda:**

None.

**2. Presentation on Reclaimed Water:**

Chairman Smith welcomed Sandra Anderson to the Task Force's meeting. He explained one of the Task Force's objectives is focusing on reclaimed water and doing something about the excess reclaimed water currently going out into the bay. He emphasized the Task Force is in support of anything they can do to assist the City of Tampa with their reclaimed water project.

Chairman Smith turned the meeting over to Ms. Anderson.

Sandra Anderson introduced herself as the City of Tampa's Reclaimed Water and Continuous Improvement Manager since 2001. She stated she has read through some of the River Watch Task Force minutes and knows what the Task Force is doing.

Ms. Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the City of Tampa's recently completed 20-year Master Plan for reclaimed water. She reviewed the City of Tampa's goals as they put the Master Plan together, the recommendations of the plan, and the benefits of implementing the plan.

Ms. Anderson stated there is only so much water they can buy because the limited capacity of the systems hydraulics; the system is pressurized and needs a certain amount of water.

Chairman Smith explained the Task Force's biggest concern is an increase on the 82 million gallons per day (mgd) being pulled out of the River today, which could mean having no water in the River certain times of the year.

Task Force Liaison Gross added the Task Force has been looking forward to hearing of the expansion of reclaimed water, thereby alleviating the burden on the River. Ms. Anderson responded their projections indicate growth in every City and she doesn't believe the permit allowance they currently have will stay that way forever. She noted their Master Plan plays a key role in offsetting potable water and helping meet future demands.

Chairman Smith interjected he is nervous with the growth projections indicated on the presentation because he sees the City of Tampa requesting more than 82 mgd out of the River. Ms. Anderson replied that would not be the City of Tampa's approach, since their permit capacity is based on the interlocal agreement.

Task Force Member Westberry questioned whether some of the reclaimed water could be put into the Lower River for augmentation. Dr. Kelly responded it was previously looked at, but it fell apart. Ms. Anderson stated it is all public perception; there are groups that don't even want reclaimed water on their lawns.

Chairman Smith stated the City of Temple Terrace looked into doing their own water treatment facility, but was shut down. The City would probably be interested in reviving that if the City of Tampa's piping comes close to Temple Terrace and if it makes sense financially, he added.

Task Force Liaison Gross interjected there will be a River Board meeting next Wednesday; all the jurisdictions will be in attendance and will have the opportunity to say what they are doing about reclaimed water. He continued part of the strategy is that, perhaps, there are joined interests that can be exploited through this meeting.

Task Force Liaison Gross suggested the Task Force wait to see the outcome of the River Board meeting, suggesting that they invite Public Works Director Joe Motta to update the Task Force on the outcome and what Temple Terrace is considering to do. Ms. Anderson interjected she would be happy to come back to a future meeting to see how Temple Terrace might fit into what the City of Tampa is doing.

Chairman Smith thanked Ms. Anderson for her time and attending their meeting.

### **3. Update on water "release" at the dam:**

Task Force Liaison Gross stated he, the City Manager, and Darryl Smith, Chief of Staff from Mayor Iorio's office, had a conference call where he had the opportunity to express this concern. He said they are now waiting to hear back from the appropriate parties. Chairman Smith stated he would put this item back on the agenda for discussion at next month's meeting.

### **4. Meeting results from June 25<sup>th</sup> with SWFWMD, Cliff Harrison, and Joe Gross:**

Cliff Harrison, EnHydro, LLC, introduced himself. He stated he was retained by the River Watch Task Force to help interpret the report done by SWFWMD and see if there was a way to steer the issues towards achieving the goal of having some control of the levels within the Middle Hillsborough River.

Mr. Harrison distributed copies of “Middle Hillsborough River-Minimum Flows & Levels Issues Report” prepared by EnHydro, LLC, a copy of which is part of the record. He reviewed the report with the Task Force.

Mr. Harrison recapped that SWFWMD’s report is sound on a regulatory and scientific basis, although it is not what the Task Force would like to hear. He suggested, the best course of action is to increase the level of information exchange and cooperation between the City of Temple Terrace, City of Tampa, and Tampa Bay Water. He continued the only improvement he sees coming from that is a greater awareness of the actual conditions, and not so much a way to change anything.

John A. Rodgers, 933 N. Riverhills Drive, referencing a statement made on the report that “SWFWMD determined that the Middle River has been a man-made impoundment” questioned whether that is really true. He continued the Middle River is the area from the dam to Fowler Avenue; a portion is an impoundment, but not the entire River. Mr. Harrison explained that SWFWMD is saying that the construction and the elevation of the dam, compared to the water levels in the River and the bottom elevations of the River, show that the dam has the ability to back water up; therefore, they consider the whole section that the dam controls to be a man-made impoundment.

Dr. Kelly interjected that SWFWMD considers the Middle River a reservoir. He further explained an example of “man-made” is Bill Young Reservoir, which is a hole that was dug.

Staff Member Avari-Cooper added that the Task Force has fought long and hard to have the River not called a reservoir and prefers that their own consultant not have language in a report saying such. Mr. Harrison emphasized that is what is shown under SWFWMD’s rules; therefore, he cannot call it anything different. He offered to change the language from “man-made impoundment” to “reservoir,” but they both mean the same thing, he said.

Staff Member Avari-Cooper suggested Mr. Harrison clarify on the report that just a portion of the River is man-made. Mr. Harrison said he would make a few minor corrections to the report and forward the revisions electronically to Task Force Liaison Gross.

There being no quorum present, Chairman Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.; the remaining agenda items will be discussed at next month’s meeting.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc  
Legislative Secretary