

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

**Monday, October 19, 2009
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, October 19, 2009, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Staff Members Carl Avari-Cooper and Richard Scilabro, Nicole Thomas, Dr. Marty Kelly, Susan Zucker, and John A. Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:34 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of Task Force Member Chillura, seconded by Task Force Member McMahon, and unanimously carried, the **REPORTS** of the July 20, 2009, and August 17, 2009, meetings were **APPROVED**.

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

None.

2. Recognition of Carl Avari-Cooper:

Chairman Smith recognized and thanked Staff Member Avari-Cooper for everything he has done for the City and the Task Force since its inception. Staff Member Avari-Cooper stated it has been a privilege working with the Task Force; he emphasized the need for the Task Force to continue educating the public on reusing wastewater and striving to make sure they always spotlight the burden on the Hillsborough River.

3. Introduction of new Marine Patrol Officer Richard Scilabro:

Chairman Smith introduced and welcomed to the Task Force the new Marine Patrol Officer/Staff Member Richard Scilabro. Staff Member Avari-Cooper interjected that Staff Member Scilabro has numerous years of experience as a Marine Patrol Officer and is well suited for this position.

4. Presentation by Tampa Bay Water Representative Nicole Thomas:

Chairman Smith introduced and welcomed Tampa Bay Water representative Nicole Thomas.

Nicole Thomas thanked the Task Force for the opportunity to discuss how the water supply goes through Tampa Bay Water's system before it ultimately reaches Temple Terrace.

Ms. Thomas stated she lived in Temple Terrace while attending University of South Florida; she graduated in 1996 with a degree in water resources and has been with Tampa Bay Water ever since.

Ms. Thomas expressed appreciation to the Task Force and other agencies for their efforts on water supply and protecting the rivers.

Ms. Thomas explained that Tampa Bay Water is a State agency that supplies water to six customers (Hillsborough County, Pasco County, Pinellas County, City of New Port Richey, City of Tampa, and City of St. Petersburg), who in turn supply water to their citizens.

Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, a copy of which is a part of the record, Ms. Thomas explained how Tampa Bay Water supplies water through three different types of supplies, numerous treatment and pumping facilities, over 240 miles of pipeline, 22 points of connections, with a daily flow ranging anywhere from 140 to 260 mgd (million gallons per day).

Ms. Thomas informed the Task Force that in the summer of 2012, Tampa Bay Water will be offline for two years while the reservoir is being fixed; there will not be any storage of water during that time.

Task Force Member McMahon questioned how much water Tampa Bay Water is currently permitted to withdraw. Ms. Thomas responded they are allowed to withdraw 121 mgd.

Chairman Smith expressed concern regarding what might happen during the two-year period that the reservoir will be offline. Ms. Thomas responded there might be other options they could consider, other than taking more water from the Hillsborough River.

Chairman Smith stated the Task Force has discussed with Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) the possibility of pumping water from the Morris Bridge Sink directly through Cow House Creek in the Hillsborough River, north of Fowler Avenue, and allow it to flow down the River through Temple Terrace as opposed to being pumped into the Bypass Canal, which helps the River, but doesn't do anything for the City of Temple Terrace. Dr. Marty Kelly replied the facility is a couple of years away from being constructed; therefore, that option is still on the table.

Task Force Liaison Gross questioned whether Tampa Bay Water is anticipating establishing water restrictions in anticipation of losing a major resource for two years. Ms. Thomas replied she is sure thoughts and discussions, such as those, are definitely going on. She explained Tampa Bay Water cannot impose water restrictions; that is something they work on with the District.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned the position Ms. Thomas holds with Tampa Bay Water. Ms. Thomas responded she is the Facilities Manager in the Maintenance Department.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned which of the six customers mainly feed off the South County Reservoir. Reading from a report, Ms. Thomas responded that yesterday Tampa Bay Water delivered 42.3 million gallons of water to Hillsborough County, 19.46 to Pasco County, 54.98 to Pinellas County, 28.74 to St. Petersburg, 0 to the City of Tampa, and 2.13 to New Port Richey.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned how the City of Tampa gets its water during drought times from Tampa Bay Water. Ms. Thomas explained there are two ways: both Tampa Bay Water and the District have facilities to pump water back over Structure 161; also, depending on the situation, they have temporary facilities out of the Morris Bridge Sink.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned whether Tampa Bay Water will be storing water somewhere else during the two-year period that the reservoir will be repaired. Ms. Thomas responded there is no other storage, but feels they have the ability to pump whatever is needed from the well fields, from expanding facilities, and from being able to take water from the Tampa ByPass Canal and the Alafia River.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned whether there has been a study done on what the impact or outcome is going to be with the reservoir being offline for two years. Ms. Thomas replied she does not know about a study being done, but she knows discussions are going on and they continue to work with the District on the plan. She said she would pass that question on to Tampa Bay Water and report back to the Task Force with a response.

Chairman Smith questioned whether Tampa Bay Water has looked into long-range weather patterns to determine if the time they are looking to take the reservoir offline is a time they are expecting a drought or more rain. Ms. Thomas responded that she knows they are looking at that, although she is not sure that the schedule is aligned with that; they are certainly in control of that and can push it either way.

Ms. Thomas thanked everyone for all the suggestions and ideas; she will be taking them back to Tampa Bay Water and will report back to the Task Force through Task Force Liaison Gross.

5. Review/Create Mission Statement:

Chairman Smith distributed copies of “sample” mission statements and recommended they make a decision this evening. After some discussion, the Task Force proposed the following mission statement: *“Maximize the unique environmental settings and resources available to Temple Terrace and the metro area by balancing a strategy for regional water quality, watershed and water resources with a thriving Hillsborough River.”* Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member Chillura, seconded by Task Force Member McMahan, the Task Force voted to accept the Mission Statement as proposed. Vote on the motion being: Task Force Members Chillura, McMahan, Pogorilich, and Smith voting “aye,” no “nay.” Task Force Member Westberry was absent and did not vote.

6. River Tour October 2010:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the River Round Table is the group that organizes this River tour. He explained Temple Terrace was invited to host the next tour, which will be in October, 2010.

Task Force Liaison Gross suggested the possibly of combining the River Tour with the Canoe Challenge and Mayor’s Cup events, which are also held in October and feature the River the entire weekend.

Task Force Member Chillura added it would be nice to tie the two events on the same day; it would attract more participation and exposure.

Task Force Member Pogorilich suggested combining the River Tour with the Arts Festival as well. Chairman Smith interjected that if they were to combine it with the Arts Festival, they should reverse the route ending the River tour at Riverhills Park. Task Force Member Chillura opined that although it sounds like a great idea, the Arts Festival would take away attention from the Hillsborough River, which should be the focal point.

The Task Force agreed they have time to think about it and see what the general consensus is; in the meantime, Task Force Liaison Gross would contact the Leisure Services Department to discuss this option.

7. Liaison Report:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Technical Advisory Council met on August 18, 2009, where they discussed river speed of watercrafts in trying to monitor manatees. He also mentioned that a shoreline improvement project at Stewart Middle Magnet School was discussed.

Task Force Liaison Gross continued that the River Board met on August 26, 2009, noting Chairman Smith attended; the focus of this meeting was the reclaimed water projects overview by Hillsborough County, City of Tampa, and City of Temple Terrace.

On August 27, 2009, Task Force Liaison Gross said he participated in Green Industries – Best Management Practices, which was a voluntary program since 2003. He explained that as of this past June, certification is required in order to apply commercial fertilizer.

Task Force Liaison Gross said the Hillsborough River Roundtable met on September 4, 2009, in which they reviewed the indirect potable reuse pilot program. He continued that on September 9, 2009, the City of Temple Terrace Community Development Department posted an online water supply webinar.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that the Technical Advisory Council met on September 15, 2009; the City of Tampa Marine Unit reviewed river speeds, and they announced the discovery of the confederate shipwreck.

Task Force Liaison Gross also reported that on October 2, 2009, the Hillsborough River Roundtable met; the USF panel discussion on treated wastewater is being organized for January, 2010. He continued that on October 14, 2009, he attended the Florida-Friendly Landscaping course offered by SWFWMD and the University of Florida. The course was specifically designed for homeowner's associations due to the passing of Senate Bill 2080, which bars HOA's from restricting the use of Florida Friendly Landscaping, he said.

8. Other Business:

Task Force Member Pogorilich said he was not in attendance at the last meeting and questioned whether EnHydro had reported back to the Task Force. Chairman Smith responded affirmatively.

Task Force Liaison Gross offered to electronically email the final report submitted by EnHydro, LLC to the Task Force.

Susan Zucker, 7013 Rivergate Avenue, asked the Task Force to introduce themselves. The Task Force and other attendees each took their turn in introducing themselves.

Chairman Smith announced their next meeting date is Monday, November 16, 2009.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary