

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

**Thursday, January 21, 2010
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Thursday, January 21, 2010, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Staff Member Richard Scilabro, Public Information Officer Michael Dunn, Marty Kelly, Ken Kramer, Nilo Priede, and Joyce Mc Kenzie.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairman Smith.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of Chairman Smith, seconded by Task Force Member McMahon, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the November 16, 2009, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

None.

Chairman Smith proceeded with Item #4 on the agenda, so that Public Information Officer Michael Dunn could leave at his regular time.

4. City of Temple Terrace Website:

Public Information Officer Michael Dunn introduced himself and thanked the Task Force for inviting him to the meeting.

Per the Task Force's request during the last meeting, Mr. Dunn said he took already existing pages on the website related to the River and revamped them to give the River Watch Task Force more focus.

Referring to the City's website, Mr. Dunn explained the Hillsborough River welcome page, and the different links available. He emphasized the pages are still a work in progress and urged the Task Force to contact him with any changes, suggestions, or questions they may have.

Chairman Smith stated that in addition to the website, the Task Force also needs to come up with a brochure for the River Tour. Task Force Liaison Gross reported he has already spoken to Mr. Dunn about that and he has graciously agreed to assist them with it.

Task Force Liaison Gross commended Mr. Dunn for taking it upon himself, after reading the minutes to get a head start in working on the website. Mr. Dunn added he wanted to give the Task Force something to work with; therefore, he went ahead and put it together.

2. Presentation and Discussion by Nilo Priede on Reclaimed Water Usage:

Chairman Smith turned the meeting over to Mr. Priede.

Nilo Priede, retired Water Resource Engineer, introduced himself and briefed the Task Force on his background.

Mr. Priede stated he is there this evening, representing himself, to hopefully energize people to recognize that there is a resource that needs to be optimized. He spoke about the millions of gallons of highly treated wastewater being dumped into the bay daily.

Mr. Priede explained that 15 years ago the City of Tampa spent over three million dollars studying reclaimed water usage; it went through pilot work, and was permitted through the Water Management District, Army Corps of Engineers, and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), but as the crescendo kept going towards the public, in terms of “they aren’t drinking toilet water,” the project was turned down.

Mr. Priede discussed a flyer “Ensuring a Sustainable Water Supply,” a copy of which is part of the record, explaining the situation, the science, and the solution.

Mr. Priede informed the Task Force of two workshops taking place: 1) “Potential Contaminants from Water Reuse” being held on Thursday, January 28, 2010, from 7-9:00 p.m. at the USF College of Public Health Auditorium, 13201 Bruce B Downs Blvd., Tampa, FL, a copy of the flyer is part of the record; and 2) a workshop to discuss the treatment levels that can be achieved, to be held on Monday, February 15, 2010, at the same time and place as the first. He encouraged everyone to attend as it is very important to get public input.

Task Force Liaison Gross opined that the “perfect storm” is finally arising and a lot of things are coming together that will not allow it to be dismissed as just “yuck” water, because that is just not an option anymore.

Chairman Smith stated it is important for the Task Force Members to attend the January 28th workshop. He suggested the Task Force cancel their February 15th meeting in lieu of attending the 7:00 p.m. workshop. Task Force Member Pogorilich interjected the Task Force will be electing a new chairman this evening, so it would be beneficial for the Task Force to meet in February to discuss his agenda and future plans. After some discussion the Task Force agreed to meet on February 15th at their regularly scheduled time, but to adjourn as early as possible so they could attend the 7:00 p.m. workshop at USF.

Task Force Member Pogorilich said he believes reclaimed water usage is great and they need to show their support for it, but he feels they should not lose sight of other issues in the Middle River that they ought to focus on. He reiterated they should not be putting all of their eggs in that basket.

The Task Force thanked Mr. Priede for being here tonight. Mr. Priede expressed appreciation for the Task Force’s support.

3. River Tour October 2010:

Chairman Smith said they need to finalize a location and a route for the River Tour. After some discussion the Task Force agreed to begin the tour at Rotary Park on Fowler Avenue and turn around at the Florida College. The Task Force tentatively agreed on a tour date of Friday, October 1st or Friday, October 8th, but is also open to the River Board's input on date preference.

Chairman Smith confirmed the Task Force will supply the water transportation, but attendees will be expected to provide their own transportation to Rotary Park.

5. Discussion on new Fertilizer Regulations:

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that EPC held a workshop on December 9, 2009. He explained that based on the workshop, the Commission moved EPC staff to pursue adopting a rule; EPC will now be meeting with representatives of all the jurisdictions. He added Temple Terrace will be meeting with EPC on Thursday, January 28th, to discuss the issues.

Chairman Smith questioned whether the City of Temple Terrace has taken a position on this yet. Task Force Liaison Gross responded that he believes there is an agreement that uniformity is preferred.

Chairman Smith stated he would continue to leave this item on the agenda in order to monitor further progress.

6. Discussion of Boat Ramp Fees:

Chairman Smith confirmed with Staff Member Scilabro that activity at the Rotary Park and Riverhills boat ramps has increased. Staff Member Scilabro added that a few people have inquired as to why the county has fees and Temple Terrace doesn't, to which he has responded it is probably only a matter of time before Temple Terrace, too, begins to charge fees.

Task Force Liaison Gross said he notified the administration and Parks Division about the issue; they are aware of it, are monitoring it, and are collecting data. He explained there are costs associated with charging fees and there are certain things that need to be done.

7. Update on City Water Treatment Plant:

Chairman Smith stated there had been some discussion about this topic at a City Council meeting and questioned whether anything new has come up. Task Force Liaison Gross responded it is going to be a slow process, but it is being investigated.

8. Election of Chair and Vice-Chair:

Chairman Smith explained that the River Watch Task Force by-laws require them to elect a new Chair and Vice-Chair each year. He said last December he was elected Chairman and Jack Westberry was elected Vice-Chairman of the Task Force, but the year is now over and they must make nominations for the coming year.

Task Force Member Westberry expressed interest in taking over the seat as Chairman.

Chairman Smith nominated Task Force Member Jack Westberry as Chairman and Task Force Member Terry McMahon as Vice-Chairman.

Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member Pogorilich, seconded by Task Force Member Chillura, the Task Force elected **Jack Westberry** to serve as **Chairman** of the Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force. Vote on the motion being: Task Force Members Chillura, Pogorilich, Smith, and Westberry voting “aye,” no “nay.” Task Force Member McMahon left the meeting early and did not vote.

Upon **Motion** of Task Force Member Westberry, seconded by Task Force Member Pogorilich, the Task Force elected **Terry Mc Mahon** to serve as **Vice-Chairman** of the Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force. Vote on the motion being: Task Force Members Chillura, Pogorilich, Smith, and Westberry voting “aye,” no “nay.” Task Force Member McMahon left the meeting early and did not vote.

9. Liaison Report:

Task Force Liaison Gross informed the Task Force that the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission has a reprint of the boaters guide available; he has put an order in to get a copy for all members.

Task Force Liaison Gross said he has talked to the administration about adding a blurb about the River Watch Task Force in the City’s newsletter. He said the administration is in support of that; therefore, he will draft a small blurb and run it by the Task Force before submitting it to the administration.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported there was a Technical Advisory Council meeting on November 17, 2009; most of the meeting was looking at the types, location, and expense of Tampa’s stormwater program through the years and what their objectives are going forward.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated that the Hillsborough River Roundtable met on December 4, 2009; the reuse water proposal was mentioned, and there may be a ballot measure in 2010. He continued that Tampa City Council banned the use of “curfew,” which is a pesticide, on their municipal golf courses.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that the Environmental Protection Commission had the fertilizer workshop on December 9, 2009; they described the water quality issues, discussed that State law requires training of people in that field by 2014, discussed that so far 19 local fertilizer ordinances have been adopted in Florida, and of 30 in attendance, 2:1 were in support of the estuary model, which is the most conservative of the fertilizer regulations.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated that the Technical Advisory Council met on December 15, 2009; the City of Tampa described plans to change dock regulations and there was an overview of “The Heights,” a mixed-use 50-acre waterfront project.

Task Force Liaison Gross said the Hillsborough River Roundtable met on January 8th; they primarily focused on the two upcoming workshops being held at USF and the Planning Commission forums on March 11th.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Technical Advisory Council met on January 19th; there was a presentation by USF on the Water Atlas, which is an online database; a copy of the flyer is part of the record. Also discussed, he said, was the fate of Phase II water restrictions, which will depend on rainfall over the next six weeks, SWFWMD trying to respond to the sinkholes, and the dry well situation from the 12-day freeze.

Task Force Liaison Gross informed the Task Force that SWFWMD announced the ability to view Governing Board meetings using streaming video, which means you can view Governing Board meetings from a desktop or anywhere you have access to the internet. He concluded his report announcing upcoming meetings and events taking place the remainder of January and February.

Chairman Smith thanked the Task Force for their support and for helping out when needed this past year. He said he enjoyed being Chairman and is sure Task Force Member Westberry will, too.

The Task Force thanked Chairman Smith and commended him for a job well done.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary