

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

**Monday, February 15, 2010
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, February 15, 2010, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Task Force Chairman Jack Westberry and Task Force Members Ron Smith and David Pogorilich. **ABSENT WERE:** Task Force members Frank Chillura and Terry McMahon.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Deputy City Clerk Donna Spano and Staff Member Richard Scilabro.

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

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of Task Force Member Smith, seconded by Task Force Member Pogorilich, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the January 21, 2010, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

None.

2. Update on River Tour October 2010:

Task Force Liaison Joe Gross reported he attended the Hillsborough River Board's Roundtable Meeting and they would prefer the River Tour be held on a Friday and suggested either the 8th or the 15th of October.

Chairman Westberry stated he would prefer October 8th; and the Task Force agreed that the River Tour would be held on Friday, October 8, 2010 with participants meeting at Rotary Park at 2:00 p.m. and the tour beginning at 2:30 p.m.

Task Force Liaison Gross continued that the Hillsborough River Board also mentioned having a short and long version of the tour and in the past the tour has been a maximum of two hours. He explained that, as the host of the tour, the Task Force must determine what the points of interest will be. Task Force Liaison Gross then stated normally there have been some limited refreshments and the River Board suggested the Task Force might want to recruit some of the service clubs/organizations in the City to see if they will help. He concluded by mentioning the typical attendance has been around 30, however, he believes the Task Force itself had planned on 30 people.

The Task Force discussed what boats would be used and determined there would be four boats; one provided by each of the following members: Task Force Chairman Jack Westberry and Task Force Members Frank Chillura, Terry McMahon, and Ron Smith.

The River Tour information will be posted on the City's website as soon as the points of interest are determined.

The Task Force determined they will ask attendees to RSVP so they can ensure enough boats and life vests are on hand.

The Task Force then viewed the map and determined the tour would begin at Rotary Park and go to the Harney Canal where they will turn around and return to Rotary park; this route should be right at the two hour timeframe.

Possible point of interest discussed included:

- The City's recently purchased Environmental Land Acquisition and Protection Program (ELAPP) property.
- The Billy Graham Garden.
- The Harney Road Canal hookup.
- The old bat tower site.

3. Update on New Fertilizer Regulations:

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that all the jurisdictions (Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace, Tampa and Plant City) met with the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) on January 28th to discuss the issues. As the Task Force is aware, he said, if a jurisdiction has an impaired waterway, it must adopt legislation. He explained that one of the ideas is to have the EPC pass a rule which will cover everyone and satisfy the statutory requirements. He reported there will be three workshops in March, which he will attend, for public and industry input adding that the EPC is pushing education rather than strict enforcement at this time.

The Task Force Members discussed the enforceability of proposed legislation, what other counties are doing, the fact that Temple Terrace residents might have to go before Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board for violations and Temple Terrace City Council's concerns regarding residents having to go before the Hillsborough County Code Enforcement Board.

Task Force Liaison Gross also mentioned that he has seen a marked increase in people wanting Florida friendly landscaping.

4. Update on Boat Ramp Fees:

Task Force Liaison Gross explained that due to the cold weather, the Leisure Services Department has not seen an increase in people using Temple Terrace boat ramps since the County started charging a fee for use of their ramps.

Staff Member Scilabro stated he has seen a bit of an increase, adding that he attended the County Marine Advisory Committee meeting and boat captains and fishing guides are unhappy with the fees since many people are not paying and they are.

The Task Force also discussed boaters on the river that have no concern for the "No Wake Zones", and Staff Member Scilabro gave his cell phone number, (813) 435-0714, so Task Force Members and residents can call and report violations.

Chairman Westberry stated he will be adding a "Present State of the River" item on future agendas and he will monitor the fluctuation of the river; he reported the level is presently at 22.8 and has fluctuated no more than 2/10^{ths} of an inch.

5. Update on Crack in Dam:

Chairman Westberry stated he had read an article in the newspaper regarding a crack in the dam at C.W. Bill Young Reservoir which, will be patched and, at last report, there is not danger of the dike breaking. The dam is leaking, but the seepage goes back into the aquifer, therefore, there is minimal water loss, he said.

Chairman Westberry reported there was also a crack in the dam at Rowlett Park which was an epoxy expansion problem due to the extreme cold; there is no danger associated with this crack either and it will be repaired soon.

Chairman Westberry mentioned a newspaper article regarding City of Tampa Councilman Charlie Miranda's initiative for public use of wastewater. Based on information in the article and the presentation from the City of Tampa's representative, Chairman Westberry surmised that Tampa Bay Water will initially recommend using the wastewater for irrigation to allow the public time to adjust to using wastewater.

Task Force Member Smith stated it was his understanding that, due to the large cost, this project never made it into the City of Tampa's final budget; the other Task Force members concurred.

After reviewing the newspaper article, Task Force Liaison Gross commented that Tampa City Council is having a workshop on this issue on February 25, 2010; he will try to attend to see what type of reception this idea receives.

The Task Force briefly discussed some of the proponents and opponents to the use of wastewater, the costs associated with this proposal, and the removal of contaminants from the wastewater prior to its use.

Chairman Westberry called for the Liaison's Report, which was delivered prior to the "Overview of College of Public Health Meeting", which was listed as Agenda Item No. 6.

7. Liaison Report.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that at the Hillsborough River Board's Roundtable Meeting, in addition to clarifying the details on the River Tour, they watched a DVD on some river cleanups performed by the "Zoo Troop", a Boy Scout Troop out of Lowry Park. He commented that this group has not only done some very good cleanups, they now have a very nice DVD as well. Task Force Liaison Gross added that he has given a copy of the DVD to Public Information Officer, Mike Dunn, for possible airing on the City's cable TV channels.

Task Force Liaison Gross reminded the Task Force that Temple Terrace's River and Trails Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. until noon; everyone will meet at the Riverhills gazebo around 9:00 a.m. He added this is listed under "Explore the Hillsborough river" link on the City's main webpage, then under "Events" on the "River Runs Through It" page. He also suggested the Task Force might want to have a table at this event.

Task Force Liaison Gross mentioned the USF workshop being held this evening, which is the second half of the workshop held on January 28, 2010; Task Force Chairman Westberry will be giving an overview on the first workshop this evening.

Task Force Liaison Gross gave an update on upcoming meetings as follows: the Technical Advisory Council meets on February 16, 2010; the River Board meets on February 22, 2010; there will be two EPC workshops on March 2, 2010; and the next Hillsborough River Board Roundtable will be on March 5, 2010.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that the Planning Commission has a Land Use and Water Supply Workshop coming up; he has a copy of the flyer if anyone is interested or would like more information. Task Force Liaison Gross stated he is attending this workshop and mentioned that seating is limited.

Task Force Liaison Gross mentioned that since Task Force Member Chillura was appointed to the Planning Commission, he has helped to raise awareness of the water supply and future water needs relating to development.

6. Overview of the College of Public Health Meeting.

Chairman Westberry reiterated the second part of the USF workshop is this evening at 6:30 p.m.; he, Task Force Member Pogorilich and Task Force Liaison Gross will be attending. He reported there were 30-40 people in attendance at the first workshop with the majority of them being doctoral candidates, therefore, it was pretty heavy on academics. He mentioned that Nilo Priede, who gave a presentation last month to the Task Force, also attended the workshop and seemed pleased with the information presented.

Chairman Westberry continued his report on the workshop touching briefly on each speaker and the topic they presented.

The Task force briefly discussed possible benefits and drawbacks to introducing semi-treated wastewater into the Hillsborough River and possible locations along the river to do so.

In response to Mr. Smith's inquiry regarding the level of opposition, Chairman Westberry explained the first meeting was very technical and was designed to set parameters of what can be identified as pollutants.

The next Task Force Meeting will be held on Monday, March 15, 2010 at 4:30 p.m.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Submitted by,

Donna M. Spano
Deputy City Clerk