

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

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

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

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

**ALSO PRESENT WERE:** Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Sergeant John Jordan, Staff Member Richard Scilabro, Dr. Marty Kelly, and John Rodgers.

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

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

Upon motion of Task Force Member Chillura, seconded by Task Force Member Smith, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the February 15, 2010, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

Chairman Westberry turned the meeting over to Dr. Marty Kelly from Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) to report on water flows around the dam.

Dr. Marty Kelly reported that the Tampa rain gauge only had about 2½ inches of rain measured over the last few days, but elsewhere throughout the district, they got anywhere from four to six inches of rain, depending on their location. He said right now it looks like a little over 200 million gallons of water a day is going over the dam, and the amount of water being sent through the Harney Canal and down the By-Pass Canal was ramped up to 1500 cfs, which is just short of a billion gallons of water a day. A copy of "USGS Real-Time Water Data Report" is part of the record.

**2. Current level and work at Fowler Avenue Bridge:**

Chairman Westberry said he stopped by the Fowler Avenue Bridge where core samples are being taken. Task Force Liaison Gross reported he met with Tierra Engineering, an engineering firm on Temple Terrace Highway, who informed him it is a Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) project. He explained the Fowler Avenue Bridge is eventually going to be widened; the borings/drillings were done to get an idea of what kind of substructure is there to support it, as they are looking at expanding the center of the bridge into the north side. He added they are just doing preliminary work and that this project could be years off.

Task Force Liaison Gross offered to have someone from FDOT attend a future Task Force meeting to tell them about this project. Chairman Westberry concurred the Task Force would not be adverse to having someone give an overview on the project, even if the project is five or six years down the road.

**3. Update on River Tour, October 2010:**

Task Force Liaison Gross reported the River Roundtable is comfortable, so far, with what has been laid out. He added Mike Dunn, Public Information Officer, is planning on putting together the brochure for the event, and will start working on it mid-summer.

**4. Update on new fertilizer regulation:**

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Environmental Protection Commission (EPC) conducted two workshops. He explained that because of a 2009 state law that was passed, all the local governments that have impaired waters are required to adopt a regulation to govern excess nitrogen and phosphorus that could get into the water. He continued, the approach that Hillsborough County has taken is that EPC is going to adopt a rule that will cover all the jurisdictions within the County.

Task Force Liaison Gross informed the Task Force that EPC will be appearing before the City Council tomorrow night to give a presentation of what their endeavors are; he encouraged anyone interested in the matter to tune in. He continued that on March 31<sup>st</sup>, EPC will hold a workshop to present the final draft; they will tweak it in April before presenting it to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on May 15, 2010.

**5. Liaison report:**

Task Force Liaison Gross recapped the February 15, 2010, Water Use Panel Workshop II, held at the University of South Florida (USF), which Chairman Westberry and Task Force Member Pogorilich attended. Chairman Westberry commented it was a very informative and well done meeting.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated he attended the Technical Advisory Council Meeting on February 16, 2010; Tampa Zoning is continuing to research nine jurisdictions, including Temple Terrace, to consider adopting dock regulations. He said Tampa Zoning views Temple Terrace's docks as their "end" goal. He continued that Tampa Construction Services was also there and described their ongoing efforts to ensure FEMA compliance with seawalls and structures.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported the River Board Meeting was held on February 22, 2010; Council Member Fernandez was elected Chair of that group for the next year and EPC did a presentation on the fertilizer rule.

Task Force Liaison Gross recapped the February 25, 2010, City of Tampa City Council workshop on the water re-use issue. He stated he contacted Phil Waller of the firm NWH; Mr. Waller has accepted an invitation to give the Task Force the same presentation given to the City of Tampa on water re-use during the May 17<sup>th</sup>, River Watch Task Force meeting.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Hillsborough River Roundtable held their meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>, in which a group called "New Earth Industries" gave a presentation on a product called "Watergoat." He explained "Watergoat" is a cost-effective catch basin device that cleans out debris in lakes.

Task Force Liaison Gross recapped the March 11, 2010, Planning Commission Land Use & Water Supply meeting and various speakers. He concluded his report informing the Task Force of various upcoming meetings and events.

#### **6. Marine Officer report.**

Staff Member Scilabro stated his schedule has been hectic with other Police Department assignments. He indicated that in between other assignments he has limited time to put the boat in, run the shoreline, and check the boat ramps.

Staff Member Scilabro reported he addressed the violations of the slowest speed zones with people this weekend, and he encouraged the Task Force to call his cell phone (813-435-0714) to report any violations they may see on the River.

Task Force Member Smith questioned whether there is anything the Task Force can do to help the Marine Officer get on the River more often. Staff Member Scilabro explained the Police Department is short-handed right now and the department's priority is the "control" guys; he believes by May it may improve.

The Task Force discussed several boat ramps that are now collecting fees, which is the cause of high traffic in Temple Terrace's boat ramps, where there are no fees.

Task Force Member Smith inquired about the Marine Officer's boat not being marked. Task Force Liaison Gross responded it is due to money constraints, adding that the City is already looking into a \$1.1 million shortfall for the next fiscal year. Chairman Westberry interjected the good thing about the boat being striped is that even from a distance people know that the water is being patrolled.

Task Force Member Chillura expressed concern that the last couple of months the traffic on the River has been unbelievable, and people are just flying by. He continued he understands Staff Member Scilabro is following orders and doing his job, but the City only has one Marine Patrol Officer; the citizens need more patrol on the River. Staff Member Scilabro explained his position is a federally funded position and a great deal is based on statistics, which are compared to his predecessors. Task Force Member Chillura clarified that his statement has nothing to do with Staff Member Scilabro, who is doing a fine job. He just wants the City to make policy decisions, and to have more dedication/allocation of the Marine Patrol Officer to the River and not ten different tasks.

Task Force Member Chillura requested an update on the boat ramp fee collection situation. Task Force Liaison Gross responded it is being monitored by the City Manager and the Leisure Services Department Director. He explained the different methods of collecting fees at the ramps requires costs upfront or involves people monitoring the ramps. He believes at the time they were looking at it, the use had not expanded to the point where it would justify getting that involved, he said. He assured the Task Force he would speak to the Leisure Services Director and report back to them.

Chairman Westberry questioned whether there is a possibility of allowing larger boat motors into the By-Pass Canal on a "no wake" type situation, so that people can put their bigger boats in.

Dr. Kelly responded he would have to inquire why that regulation is there, adding that he knows sometimes boats aren't allowed on places where water is withdrawn for public supply due to oil or gas contamination.

**7. Other business.**

Chairman Westberry distributed an email, a copy of which is part of the record, related to Angelo's Aggregate Materials Landfill, which, it appears, will not be giving up. He brought it just for informational purposes only, he said.

The next River Watch Task Force Meeting will be held on Monday, April 19, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. Task Force Member Smith informed the Task Force he will not be able to attend the April meeting. As a heads up, Task Force Liaison Gross advised he *may* have an issue attending the June 21, 2010, meeting.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc  
Legislative Secretary