

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

**Monday, April 19, 2010
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, April 19, 2010, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

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

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Staff Member Richard Scilabro, Dr. Marty Kelly, Phil Compton, Mike G. Harper, Nanette O'Hara, and John Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 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 McMahon, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the March 15, 2010, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

None.

2. Recognition of Marine Officer Richard Scilabro:

Chairman Westberry congratulated Marine Officer Scilabro for being recognized as Police Officer of the Year. He expressed appreciation for all the work Staff Member Scilabro does on the River, and for the Task Force in general.

Chairman Westberry commented traffic on the River has increased. Staff Member Scilabro said several people have complained to him about the County's \$5 launching fee at the By-Pass Canal boat ramp.

Chairman Westberry questioned whether Leisure Services Director James Chambers has been made aware of the situation. Task Force Liaison Gross responded he has spoken to him about it. He added he stopped by the ramp today and it was very quiet. Staff Member Scilabro interjected he did a vehicle count last Friday, and there were 24 vehicles with trailers parked in the lot.

Chairman Westberry proceeded with Item #5 on the agenda, so that guest speakers could leave earlier.

5. Update on new fertilizer regulations:

Nanette O'Hara, Outreach Coordinator, Tampa Bay Estuary Program, thanked the Task Force for inviting her this evening. She said tonight's presentation is the same PowerPoint presentation she gave to the City of Tampa City Council last week. She continued that the City of Tampa did endorse the ordinance and sent a resolution to Hillsborough County Environmental Protection Commission, which is looking at adopting a local fertilizer use ordinance on a County-wide level.

Referring to a PowerPoint Presentation “Non-agricultural Regional Fertilizer Application-Tampa Bay Region Model Ordinance,” a copy of which is a part of the record, Ms. O’Hara summarized the basics of their residential fertilizer use ordinance. She listed their major partners, gave a technical summary of the program, explained the results of the model ordinance, reported on the status of ordinance adoption, summarized the key benefits of the ordinance, and reviewed ordinance-compliant fertilizer products currently on the market.

Phil Compton, Sierra Club, commended the City of Temple Terrace for being Tampa Bay’s role model and doing such a great job by putting in the CDS (Continuous Deflective Separation) devices at 56th Street. He explained those devices are capturing a lot of floatable trash that would otherwise runoff into the River.

Mr. Compton explained there is no good way of removing nitrogen from the water; therefore, we must educate people on how their fertilizer use impacts the water quality and ask them to use personal responsibility. He summarized the benefits of using slow-release fertilizer products, which is a win-win situation for everybody. He added that most people who irrigate their lawns with reclaimed water do not need fertilizer, as reclaimed water has plenty of nitrogen.

Chairman Westberry thanked Ms. O’Hara and Mr. Compton for the informative, in-depth look at the fertilizer problem.

3. Current River water level:

Chairman Westberry requested an update on River levels. Dr. Marty Kelly responded they are doing pretty good; normally they expect the highest rainfall in the summer, but this has been an “el Niño” year. He said they have reached higher flows over the last couple of months than they did the entire rainy season this past year.

Dr. Kelly reported some numbers from the USGS Real-Time Water Data Report, a copy of which is a part of the record. He said the By-Pass Canal and other reservoirs are full and looking good.

Mr. Harper questioned the impact on the aquifer after the strawberry fields’ situation. Dr. Kelly responded that the aquifer rebounded very quickly; it is back up where it should be. It is his understanding that most of those well issues have been addressed, but there is a series of workshops going on, because it looks like there need to be some changes to how things are permitted, he said.

4. Update on River Tour, October 2010:

Task Force Liaison Gross reported that he and Public Information Officer Mike Dunn have talked in between meetings about the brochure for the event, but they don’t have anything on paper yet.

6. Liaison report:

In regards to increasing awareness of what the Task Force is doing, Task Force Liaison Gross stated there was a paragraph about the River Watch Task Force in the latest City Newsletter, in which it also directs people to the City’s website for more information on the Task Force.

Task Force Liaison Gross said the Hillsborough County City-County Planning Commission puts out a quarterly publication called RiverNews, a copy of which is a part of the record.

Task Force Liaison Gross stated there is mention on the publication that the River Board elected Temple Terrace Councilmember Alison Fernandez as the new Chair for 2010. Also, he added, there is an article on dock regulations; Temple Terrace is being viewed as a role model on how they regulate docks.

Task Force Liaison Gross reported on the borings at the Fowler Avenue Bridge; the west bound bridge is to be widened or even replaced in its entirety. He said he spoke to Public Information Officer Mike Dunn, who will be adding links to the City's website, that provide information on this and other projects. An information sheet containing project description, location, schedule, costs, and contact information is a part of the record.

Task Force Liaison Gross recapped the results of several meetings he attended in March. He listed upcoming meetings: Technical Advisory Council will meet on April 20th, to talk primarily about docks; Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Public Supply Advisory Committee will also meet April 20th; and the Hillsborough River Roundtable will meet May 7th.

Task Force Liaison Gross reminded the Task Force that Phil Waller of the engineering firm NWH will be giving a presentation on water re-use at the May 17th River Watch Task Force meeting. He informed the Task Force that he plans to attend a May 24th meeting in Tampa, where SWFWMD is presenting a Regional Water Supply Plan 2010 update. Also on this day, the River Board will be meeting, he said.

In looking forward to the River Watch Task Force's June and July meetings [June 21st and July 19th], Task Force Liaison Gross stated he has scheduling conflicts and will not be able to attend.

7. Marine Officer Report:

Staff Member Scilabro reported there are quite a number of boaters coming from the County's boat ramp areas and launching at our boat ramps because they don't want to pay the \$5 fee.

Staff Member Scilabro added there was a complaint of a nuisance alligator in the South Riverhills Drive area; he went out there and the gator fit the criteria for being a nuisance gator, therefore, it was removed by the trapper. Task Force Liaison Gross asked how big the gator was, to which Staff Member Scilabro responded seven feet.

Staff Member Scilabro concluded his report by informing the Task Force that Joyce McKenzie of The Tampa Tribune requested to ride along the River with him on Wednesday, April 21st. He said they will be heading north for about two hours.

8. Other business:

Chairman Westberry announced the next River Watch Task Force Meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2010, at 4:30 p.m.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary