

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

**Monday, May 16, 2011
Council Workroom
4:30 p.m.**

The Temple Terrace River Watch Task Force met on Monday, May 16, 2011, in the Council Workroom at City Hall.

PRESENT WERE: Chairman Terry McMahon and Task Force Members Frank Chillura, Mike Harper, Ron Smith, and Jack Westberry.

ALSO PRESENT WERE: Council Liaison Robert Boss, Legislative Secretary Sobeida LeBlanc, Task Force Liaison Joe Gross, Marine Patrol Officer Greg Stevanus, Dr. Marty Kelly, Ivana Blankenship, Paula Noblitt, Sam Elrabi, and John Rodgers.

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m. by Chairman McMahon.

1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Upon motion of Task Force Member Westberry, seconded by Task Force Member Smith, and unanimously carried, the **REPORT** of the April 18, 2011, meeting was **APPROVED**.

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

None.

2. Trout Creek Sewage Spill Presentation – Environmental Protection Commission (EPC):

Task Force Liaison Gross stated that during last month's meeting they discussed the Trout Creek sewage spill. He clarified that EPC was not in charge of this, but has stepped into leadership for all in this particular incident. He said he has already seen the presentation that will be given to the Task Force this evening and commended EPC for the job well done. Before turning the meeting over to EPC representatives, he introduced Paula Noblitt and Sam Elrabi.

Mr. Elrabi stated the City of Tampa had two ruptures along the lanes on Bruce B Downs Boulevard on March 15th and 16th and a few million gallons of wastewater spilled into Trout Creek. He said anytime something like this occurs it is a big concern to EPC.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation titled "City of Tampa Wastewater Spill into Trout Creek," a copy of which is a part of the record, Mr. Elrabi explained the City of Tampa's wastewater treatment plant is designed to handle 96 million gallons of wastewater per day, but operates at an average of 65 million gallons per day. He continued this plant operates under a NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) federal permit issued by the State Department of Environmental Protection. He added over 2,000 miles of piping and over 200 pumping stations transport wastewater to this plant. He pointed out the spill locations on a map, recapped the spills of both days, reviewed test sampling data collected and locations, explained EPC's response process, potential impacts, further evaluation, and what EPC learned during the process.

Mr. Elrabi stated this same presentation would be given to the City Council tomorrow night.

3. Reservoir Renovations Presentation – Tampa Bay Water:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated a few weeks ago the Task Force voiced interest in learning about planned renovations to the reservoir. He said he contacted Tampa Bay Water and Ivana Blankenship is present this evening on behalf of John Kennedy, the engineer involved in the project, to bring the Task Force up to speed.

Ivana Blankenship thanked the Task Force for inviting her and apologized on John Kennedy's behalf for his inability to attend this meeting, due to a scheduling conflict. She stated John Kennedy is the Project Manager and Engineer of this project. She said she is not an engineer; therefore, will only report on the information he provided to her.

Ms. Blankenship reported there was a special board meeting today where they discussed a future long-term fix and a short-term fix. She continued they had three interested companies that presented their proposed approach to the board.

Ms. Blankenship explained they noticed the cracking of the reservoir in 2005, which turned out to be a design flaw of the reservoir. She said the soil cement has cracked, which is used for erosion prevention. She continued the reservoir is filled in the summer and used up during dry seasons; as the water levels drop in the reservoir, the water trapped behind the soil wedge is not draining at the same pace as the water in the reservoir; consequently, they have very low levels of water in the reservoir while the trapped water behind the soil cement is causing pressure, thereby cracking the soil cement in the various locations.

Ms. Blankenship said they have extensively surveyed the extent of the damage and devised three possible approaches to solve the problem: 1) replace the soil cement walls completely; 2) replace the whole thing, and at the same time expand its holding capacity by making it higher; or 3) add weight to the soil cement to hold it in place and prevent erosion.

Ms. Blankenship continued the reservoir remains safe to use; they plan on filling it this wet season and when it empties during next dry season, repairs will be started.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned whether Tampa Bay Water has thought about doing the repairs in phases. Ms. Blankenship responded negatively; the repairs will be done all at once commencing on June 2012 and will take 24 months to complete.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned what the emergency backup plan is if they go into a major drought. Ms. Blankenship responded the reservoir is their major drought resistant component; if they go into a drought they will have to rely on ground water and will have to pump the desalt plant to the maximum capacity of 25 million gallons of water per day.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned whether Tampa Bay Water is prepared to supply water from another region to our area if need be. Ms. Blankenship responded there is a policy in place that does not allow that to happen; they also do not have the infrastructure to tap into anything else.

Task Force Member Chillura questioned whether a study has been done as to the impact if there was a drought, the reservoir were depleted, and they had to tap into the ground water for all the needs. Ms. Blankenship responded to her knowledge Tampa Bay Water has not done one, but has done a lot of research and scenarios, and she offered to email the information to the Task Force.

Ms. Blankenship clarified that all three proposed approaches include raising the wall and the estimated cost of the repair is approximately \$120 million. She said Tampa Bay Water hired an outside company before this whole process started and they reviewed the various bids and will also be reviewing the statements of proposal.

Ms. Blankenship said she would email the Task Force an estimate of impact or worst case scenario of what would happen if they went into drought, and their predictions. She added that Tampa Bay Water gives tours of the reservoir and desalination plant, and she encouraged the Task Force to contact her if they wish to arrange one. Task Force Liaison Gross agreed it would be a good idea to visit the reservoir once the repair approach has been decided.

Task Force Liaison Gross thanked the EPC and Tampa Bay Water representatives for their presentations this evening.

4. Planning Commission's Community Design Award:

Task Force Liaison Gross stated the Task Force's Design Award is on display in the trophy case outside the Council Chambers. He added it was a very nice presentation and has given the Task Force some distinction, which was well earned. He congratulated the Task Force for having received such recognition.

5. Current River water level:

Dr. Marty Kelly stated the water levels are pretty good for this time of the year. He said they should hopefully have some rain by their next meeting in June. He reported the flows at the various locations, and submitted a copy of the USGS Real-Time Water Data Report, dated May 16, 2011, for the record.

6. Liaison report:

Task Force Liaison Gross reported the Technical Advisory Council met on April 19th at Sulphur Springs and talked about the weir redesign for the manatees. On April 21st, he went to the Environmental Protection Commission where he first heard the Trout Creek sewage spill presentation and thought it would be a good idea to include it in tonight's agenda, he said. Also, on the same night was the Planning Commission Community Design Awards event. He added that Public Information Officer Mike Dunn put a photo of the Task Force's Design Award on the website, as well as a cut-line describing it.

Task Force Liaison Gross continued that on May 4th, he submitted for the July quarterly newsletter a request for everyone living on the river to place their address on their docks. On May 11th, he said he attended the Livable Tampa Round Table meeting where he shared the Task Force's Design Award.

Task Force Liaison Gross reviewed upcoming meetings and events: Technical Advisory Council meeting on May 17th and the River Board meeting on May 23rd.

7. Marine Officer report:

Marine Officer Stevanus reported he had one arrest last month for fishing without a license, six citations issued for either speeding or lack of fishing license, and 20 warnings. He added he did some speed enforcement checking up on the Brightwater area and several locations and found a couple violators he had given verbal warnings to, but saw nobody barreling down the river as previously mentioned. He said he would continue efforts on that.

8. Other business:

Task Force Member Harper read a newspaper article regarding Environmental Protection Agency backing off water pollution rules they claim are too costly to implement. He questioned whether it had anything to do with fertilizers. Dr. Kelly responded one of the things they are trying to control is nitrogen phosphates concentrations; he explained EPA got sued and supposedly the state was working on it, but EPA took it away from the state and came up with their own criteria, and a lot of people are objecting to what is being proposed. Task Force Liaison Gross added they have a couple delays already at implementation; it potentially affects every jurisdiction.

Task Force Member Chillura thanked Marine Patrol Officer Stevanus for his presence on the river.

Task Force Member Chillura reported there is a lot of talk about the whole area getting redistricted; there is a good chance that Temple Terrace will be split into two districts and may have two County Commissioners representing the City. He encouraged attendance at a town hall meeting to be held in Temple Terrace on Monday, May 23rd, at the Lightfoot Center to speak about the issue.

Task Force Liaison Gross announced their next meeting will be on Monday, June 20th, at 4:30 p.m.

Task Force Member Westberry reported his neighbor's roof was covered with buzzards/vultures the other morning. He explained this happens in Florida on waterways and these buzzards tear down everything they land on. He advised everyone to keep their eyes open for them and simply run them off when they see them.

There being no further business to consider, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Sobeida LeBlanc
Legislative Secretary