

# **Post Disaster Redevelopment Plan Environmental Restoration Work Group Meeting Summary**

**Date:** July 19, 2011

**Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Location:** Pinellas County Planning Department Conference Room

**Attendees:** Gayle Guidash, PC Department of Health; Dave Walker, PC Planning; Liz Freeman, PC Planning, Ryan A. Brinson, PC Planning, Peter Hessling, PC Parks and Conservation, Air Quality; Steve Harper, PC Parks and Conservation, Land Management; David Sadowsky, PC Attorney's Office; Ramona Madhosingh-Hector, PC Extension Services; Libby Carnahan, PC Extension Services, Sea Grant Program; Lindsay Cross, Tampa Bay Estuary Program; Betti Johnson, TBRPC; Brady Smith, TBRPC; Suzanne Cooper, TBRPC; Kelly Levy, PC Environment and Infrastructure, Watershed Management; Joe Going, PC Environment and Infrastructure, Solid Waste; Charles Mangio, PC Environment and Infrastructure Solid Waste; Ann Paul, Audubon Society

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- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Liz Freeman with the Pinellas County Planning Department welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.
  
  - II. **Finalize Environmental Action Plan** – All agreed that the revised plan which included the comments from the last meeting looks good and the group did not have any edits to the 7-19-11 Version of the Action Plan. Liz suggested that Action Item D1.2.5 – D1.2.7 be moved to Land Use and Housing Action Plan and that a modified version of D1.2.5 should remain so the workgroup does not lose sight of its importance. All agreed with the suggestion. Liz also noted that some adjusting and/or modifications can occur in the future as necessary since this document is not a shelf plan. Liz noted that the Action Plan will be reviewed later this week on Friday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> by the Steering Committee.
    - o **Update on Coastal Construction Line Determination (Action Item D8.1.1 and D8.1.2.)** – Libby Carnahan with PC Extensions followed-up and provided an update on who determines the Coastal Construction Control line and informed the group that the Line is managed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Beach Management Office. She also mentioned that the only way to change the CCCL would be through a legislative mandate and that changing the line could

conceivably take years after a major storm event although they can perform an assessment after a storm and determine it needs to receive priority. The line/coastal area would either have to erode entirely or get on the States Critically Eroded Beach list in order to receive funding priority. She noted however that the main priority of the Beach Management Office was to expedite permitting after the storm.

Betti Johnson with TBRPC noted that the Hurricane Ivan 2004 report was completed rather quickly following the storm. Betti further mentioned that the report provides an assessment of damages to the beaches and dunes and coastal construction and provides preliminary recommendations for post-storm response activities. This will be placed online as a resource.

Libby concluded with some brief ideas about Sea Level Raise and climate change that she found while looking at Sarasota County's PDRP (which will be placed online). Liz mentioned that the action items relating to Sea Level Rise planning were modified per the group's last meeting and are contained in this iteration of the plan.

- **Discuss County's Temporary Debris Staging Location Map** – Joe Going with PC Utilities/Solid Waste introduced Charles Mangio as the County's Hurricane Debris contact/representative. Mr. Mangio described the County's Temporary Debris Staging Location Map. He noted that the 11 sites identified on the map are only considered to be preliminary and have not received DEP approval yet with the exception of Toy Town and the Solid Waste Sod Farm. Mr. Mangio also informed the workgroup that these sites are for County dumping/reduction/transferring purposes only and that due to FEMA reimbursement guidelines/policies, other jurisdictions and the County would not be compensated if the County agreed to handle all of the debris as there is not an interlocal agreement that addresses this (there are additional issues to the lack of the agreement). Apparently this is a very complicated issue with FEMA. So, currently the County only collects debris in the unincorporated area and a few cities. FDOT collects debris for several communities under contract, and likely several cities handle it themselves. All of the debris goes outside the county for disposal.

Liz Freeman suggested that this coordination issue be vetted out at the Steering Committee level so that public officials are made aware of this. Also, Liz mentioned that she would like to see the Plan's text describe the complexity and coordination issues, particularly as they relate to protection of air and water resources and environmental lands in the locating of debris removal sites. When it comes to debris site selection

consideration and coordination with the Cities, protection of temporary housing sites and County-owned preservation properties should be a priority.

Kelly Levy with PC Environmental Watershed Management suggested that Action D1.1.3 be modified slightly to include a prequalified list or screening for contractors that can also clean-up. Kelly also suggested that Water and Navigation be added under the required collaboration. Liz indicated she will make the changes and edit the actions to address the results of the discussion, and send the edits out to the group for review.

It was noted that the County does not intend to burn debris – sites will be set up for either chipping/reduction (likely Toytown and the Sod Farm, and perhaps East Lake Road) and separate sites will be set up for drop-off of debris by citizens. Waste will be transported out of the County for the most part.

- **Follow-up With Action D5.1.1 and Resilient Tampa Bay Role in Action Plan** – Brady Smith with TBRPC recommended that the Resilient Tampa Bay's role in the Action Plan be removed since the group is relatively new and also since many members/agency representatives of the group are already listed individually in the Action Plan.

**III. Next Steps** – Liz indicated that the website will be updated with additional materials and resources from the last meeting and reminded workgroup members that she would modify a couple of actions (that relate from today's discussion) and that the Action Plan would be emailed out for their review and comment once complete. Liz also indicated that as of right now a workgroup meeting is not planned and that once Betti drafts the Plans text it will also be emailed out for review/comment. David confirmed the timeline for completion of the draft action plans (September of this year), and Liz noted that at some point in the future the action plans would shift more to task teams/groups set up to implement the individual actions.

**IV. Other Items** - Lindsey with TBEP mentioned the opening of their grant cycle for neighborhood groups, etc. For more information get in touch with her or go online.

**V. Adjourn** - With no further items to discuss the meeting adjourned.