

AGENDA ITEM V.

Approval of Previous Meeting
Summary – 10/20/09





October 20, 2009
1:30 a.m.



www.hillsboroughriver.org



Tampa Union Station, 2nd Floor
601 N. Nebraska Avenue
Tampa, FL 33602
272-5940

Hillsborough River Technical Advisory Council

Meeting Summary

Present

Robert Carnahan*	Tom Willett**
Sylvia Espinola*	Joe Gross•
Kelly Holland**	Andy Berry•
Peter Owens*	Cori Cuttler*
Ben Koplin•	Derek Doughty*
Shawn College	Kathleen Venzon
Sid Flannery	

Absent

Suzanne Cooper*
Thalia Potter*
Charles Kovach*

* Denotes TAC Members ** Denotes Alternates
• Denotes Staff Ex Officio Members

I. Call To Order

TAC chair Robert Carnahan called the meeting to order at 1:30.

II. Roll Call

Members were sufficient to establish a quorum.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Carnahan led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Moment of Contemplation

Chair Carnahan led the Council in observing a moment of silent contemplation

V. Approval of Previous Meeting Summary – 9/15/09

Minutes were approved with minor changes.

VI. Sulphur Springs Weir

Mr. College explained that it was his understanding that a number of questions had been raised during the permitting process regarding impacts on manatees. Mr. Owens explained that the EPC now has jurisdiction as the permitting agency for most minor Tampa Port Authority Permits. Mr. Owens also explained that they had referred their questions about manatee impacts to the Florida Game Fish Conservation Commission. Mr. Owens explained that it was his understanding that smaller manatees could access the spring run beyond the existing weir. Mr. Owens stated that he felt there were competing interests associated with this project, including meeting the minimum flow for the river and endangered species protection. Mr. Flannery stated that the existing weir used to have stop logs. Mr. Flannery stated that the minimum flow on the river is having great positive effects. Mr. Flannery explained that there is an adopted minimum flow for the spring run of 18 cfs generally and 10 cfs at low tide if there is no backflow. Mr. Flannery stated that the project would somewhat further restrict manatee use if the weir were raised 6 inches to 1 foot. Mr. Flannery stated that the spring run is not a thermal refuge because it is too shallow, however, just outside spring run is a thermal refuge that would remain after the project. Mrs. Espinola suggested, and the TAC concurred, that this information should be relayed to the River Board at their next meeting.

VII. Cruise-a-cade

Mr. College explained that he was informed by Assistant City Attorney David Shobe that the City had dropped its law suit against Cruise-a-cade. Ms. Espinola suggested, and the TAC concurred, that a letter should be sent to the City Attorney asking for an explanation as to why this lawsuit had been dropped.

VIII. Cone Ranch Update

Mr. College explained that the committee reviewing the cone ranch proposal had twice considered a motion to recommend against a private proposal to purchase cone ranch. Both times this motion failed by one vote. Mr. College further explained that there is another meeting Friday, and that he would keep the TAC informed. Mr. Owens said the property is very important environmentally. Mr. College explained that the private proposal would not allow the citizens of Hillsborough County to have access to the land in the future. Mr. College explained that there is very little development pressure on the land as it is currently designated as Natural Preservation on the County's Future Land Use Map.

IX. Cypress Creek Town Center Update

Mr. College explained that Senator Castor has asked the EPA to review the current permit. The EPA has not yet released the results of its review.

X. Consistency Determination:

a. Tampa Port Authority Permit No. 50467, Harriet Patterson

Mr. Koplín asked Mr. Holland that the EPC be mindful of the stormwater outfall in the area. Mr. Holland said he would review it and make sure the project would not interfere with the outfall. The TAC recommended to the River Board that the permit be found consistent with the consolidated plan.

b. Tampa Port Authority Permit No. 09-082, Richard & Andrea Gonzmart

The TAC recommended to the River Board that the permit be found consistent with the consolidated plan.

XI. Status of Hillsborough River Flows and Levels

It was noted that the reservoir was full and water was recently flowing over the dam.

XII. Agency Status Reports

Mr. Owens explained that he is now working with the MPO and Planning Commission looking at Transit and Transit Oriented Development. Mr. Owens said he would review for impacts on the river and keep us informed.

Miss. Cuttler said that SWFWMD was starting its "Get out side" campaign and would hold an event on the first Saturday in November.

XIII. Jurisdictional Status Reports

Mr. Gross explained that the River Watch Task Force was informed that the regional reservoir would be off-line for two years for repairs and has asked Tampa Bay Water and the SWFWMD to prepare now for dealing with this issue in the future.

Mr. Koplín stated that two new baffle boxes had been installed downtown and two more are in the process of being sited. Mr. Willett asked what the cost was for these projects. Mr. Koplín said one cost \$70,000.

Mr. Koplín reminded the TAC that the Mayor's Beautification Committee would have its annual River Clean-up on November 21st at Lowery Park.

XIV. Other Business

Mr. Carnahan said a symposium on using reclaimed water for drinking water would be held at USF on November 11th.

Mr. College said a sunken civil war ship had been found in river near downtown. Mr. College also that a Sulphur Springs clean-up would take place on October 24th.

Meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT

AGENDA ITEM VIII.

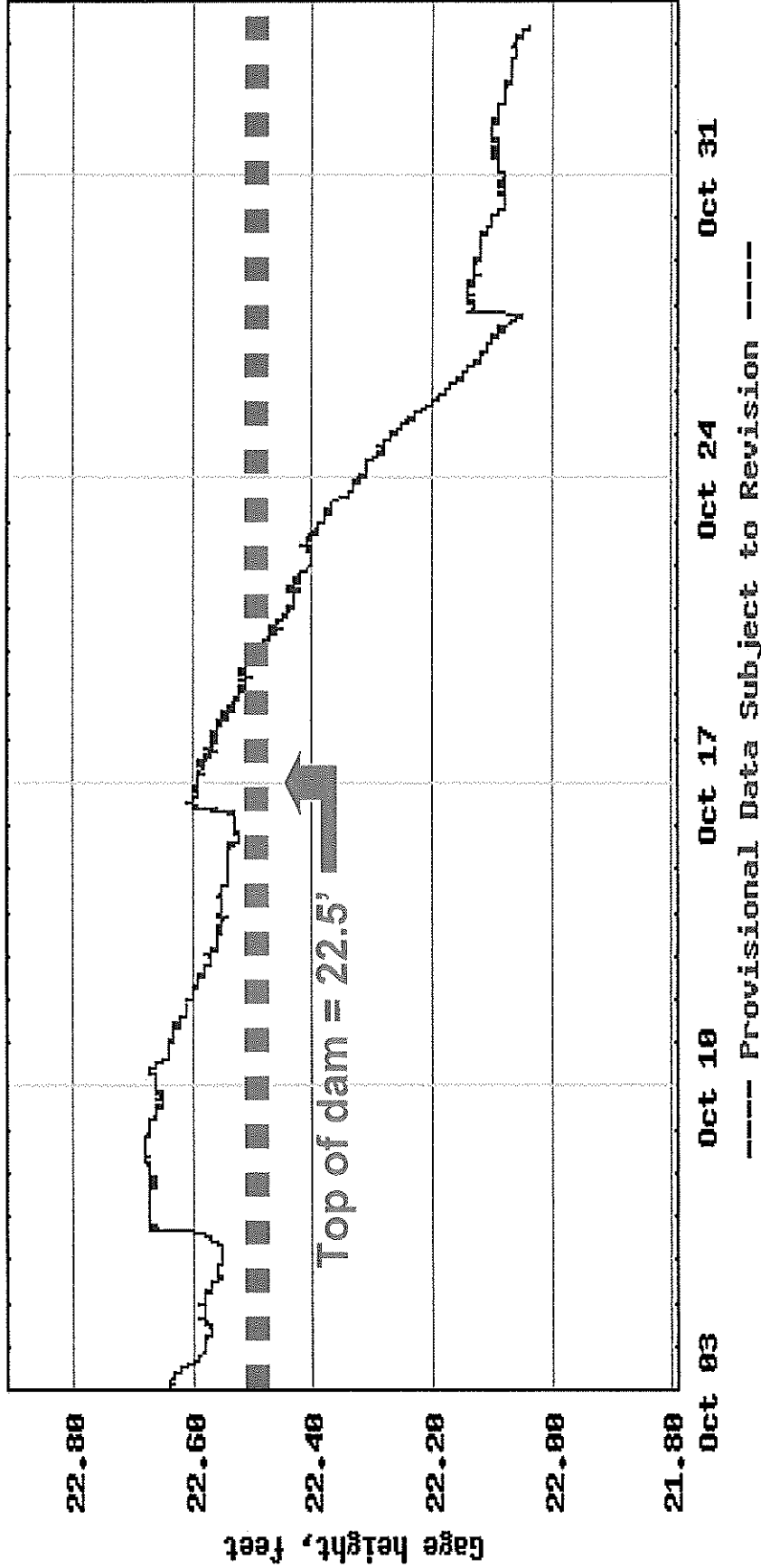
Status of Hillsborough River Flows
and Levels



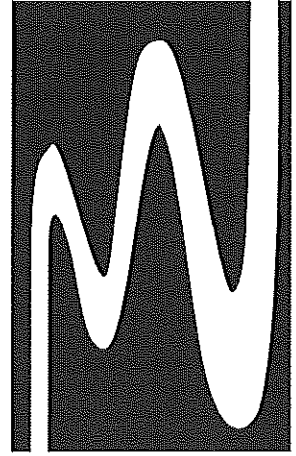


GAGE HEIGHT

USGS 02304500 HILLSBOROUGH RIVER NEAR TAMPA FL



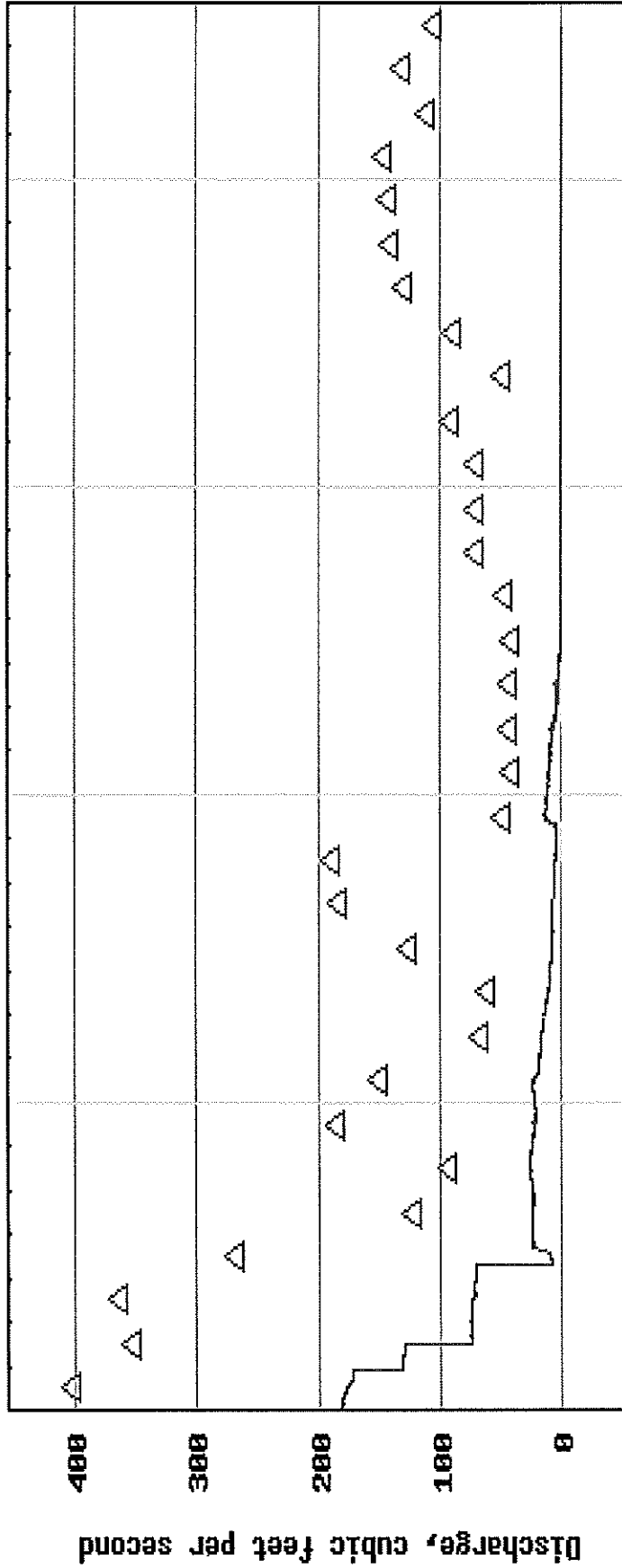
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DISCHARGE

USGS 02304500 HILLSBOROUGH RIVER NEAR TAMPA FL

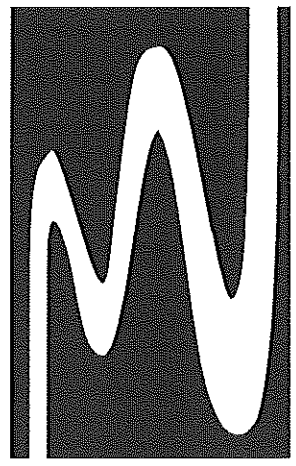


Oct 03 Oct 10 Oct 17 Oct 24 Oct 31

----- Provisional Data Subject to Revision -----

△ Median daily statistic (6 years) — Discharge

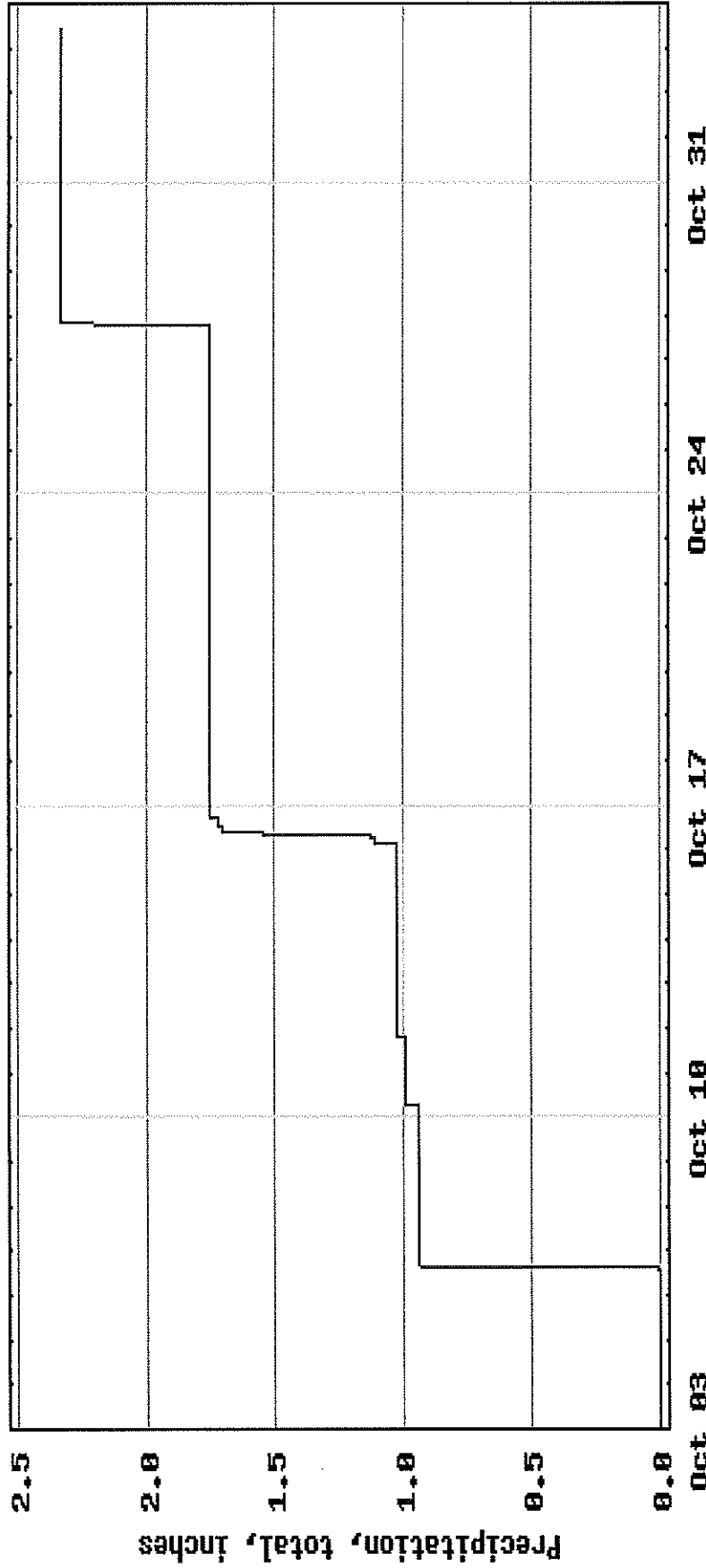
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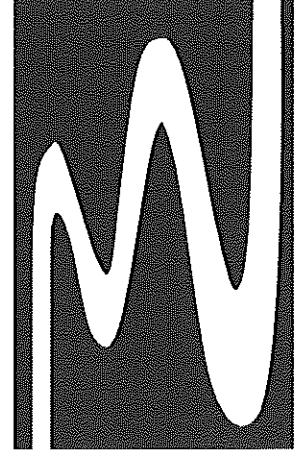


PRECIPITATION

USGS 02304500 HILLSBOROUGH RIVER NEAR TAMPA FL



http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02304500&agency_cd=USGS



Tampa Water Supply & Demand Status

Emergency Water Use Restrictions are now in effect. Customers are urged to conserve water. Use only minimal amounts of water necessary to sustain existing plant material and check for leaks both inside and outside.

Water Storage:

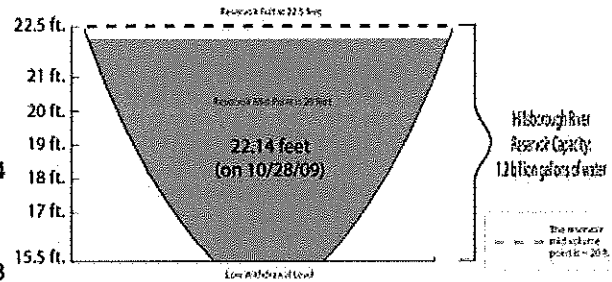
Reservoir Level (msl ft):

Wednesday 10/28/09

22.14

Wednesday 10/21/09

22.43



Water Supply:	7-Day Average (mgd)		
	10/18 to 10/24	10/11 to 10/17	10/04 to 10/10
River Flow	55.00	62.29	89.06
Reservoir Augmentation			
Sulphur Springs	0	0	0
Tampa Bypass Canal	0	0	0
ASR Wells	0	0	0
Total:	55.00	62.29	89.06

Water Demand:	10/18 to 10/24	10/11 to 10/17	10/04 to 10/10
	Tippin Plant Production	74.00	76.48
Water Purchases	0	0	0
Total:	74.00	76.48	79.60
Non-Watering Days Average	72.71	73.07	78.38
Watering Days Average	77.22	85.00	82.65

Dam Discharge	10/18 to 10/24	10/11 to 10/17	10/04 to 10/10
		0.74	6.31

Water Restriction Enforcement:

Citations Issued Week of 10/24/09:	29
Citations Issued Week of 10/17/09:	29
Citations Issued Week of 10/10/09:	19
Citations Issued Calendar Year to date:	1488

mgd = Million of Gallons per Day Level

msl = Mean Sea

Definitions of Terms

*Data used to produce this information are provisional and may be subject to change.

AGENDA ITEM X.

Other Business



[Print Article](#)**Print This Story**

Tampa Sports Authority halts use of herbicide at golf courses

By [CHRISTIAN M. WADE](#) | The Tampa Tribune

For nearly a decade, the Tampa Sports Authority has used an arsenic-laden weedkiller on the fairways of the golf courses it oversees.

The industrial-strength herbicide, monosodium methanearsonate, or MSMA, is approved by the Florida Department of Agriculture and applied only by licensed professionals.

But the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is concerned the weedkiller is contaminating the groundwater at least one of the courses, Rogers Park, 7911 N. 30th St., which is bounded by the Hillsborough River and within a mile of hundreds of drinking-water wells.

Recent tests conducted by a consulting firm hired by Tampa to monitor contamination from a old municipal landfill underneath a section of the golf course, revealed higher-than-acceptable levels of arsenic in one of several groundwater testing wells.

DEP wants the city to conduct more extensive soil and groundwater testing of the area to determine the source of the arsenic and remove the contaminated soil, if needed.

Eric Hart, the sports authority's executive director, said he was not aware of the DEP concerns about groundwater contamination from MSMA until contacted by The Tampa Tribune and TBO.com. He said the authority will temporarily discontinue the use of MSMA use at its golf courses until the issue is resolved.

Industry groups defend the use of MSMA as relatively cheap and effective way to rid parks, athletic fields and fairways of weeds. They claim that low doses of its primary ingredient, inorganic arsenic, pose no threat to public health or the environment.

Still, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services say chronic exposure to inorganic arsenic is known to cause cancer and has been linked to heart disease, diabetes and declines in brain functions.

Environmental regulators are concerned enough about the potential harm from MSMA that they have banned most uses of the controversial herbicide by the end of 2013.

EPA officials plan to study its possible effects on wildlife and water supplies.

In Florida, where a mix of sandy soils and a high water table means contaminants such as arsenic can pass easily into groundwater and aquifers used by public utilities, the sale and use of MSMA on golf courses will be prohibited by the end of 2010, the EPA said.

Hart said the herbicide is sprayed in certain areas of golf courses where the weeds are most prevalent. The authority only uses about 7 gallons of MSMA a year, he said.

"We don't use that much of it anyways," Hart said. "It's only applied where it's needed."

The sports authority has come under fire in previous years for its use of a controversial worm-killing pesticide, Curfew, at the Babe Zaharias Golf Course in Forest Hills.

After neighbors complained about the use of the pesticide, applied to fairways and tee boxes to kill worms that feed on grass, Dow discontinued its use on Babe Zaharias.

Dow said it would continue using Curfew on other city-owned golf courses.

Of course, there could be other sources for the elevated arsenic levels.

Rogers Park was built on a former municipal landfill that was shutdown in 1957. It is one of several old dumps that the DEP wants the city to investigate and clean up, if needed.

The sports authority also also operates Rocky Point golf course near Tampa International Airport.

Since the early 1990s, the city has been required by the DEP to conduct annual reports of the groundwater using several test wells at the perimeter of the old landfill.

DEP said it won't know the source of contamination until further tests are conducted.