

RIVER BOARD & TAC MEETINGS SUMMARIES

The TAC met on August 20th at the City of Temple Terrace Public Works Department. Among the agenda items that were presented and discussed was a briefing on the processes implementing the state's Impaired Waters Rule in relation to the Hillsborough River, discussion on possible utilization of a portion of Howard F. Curren Treatment Plant waste water in providing a minimum flow to lower Hillsborough River, a briefing on discussions relating to the establishment of a Marine Contractor Licensing Program in Hillsborough County; recent Hillsborough River Levels and new equipment installed to monitor/report these levels, a briefing on new continuous deflection and separation (CDS) units proposed for installation in the City of Temple Terrace, issues relating to the use of the Lowry Park boat ramp by personal watercraft, park policy, and the use of funds earmarked for marine law enforcement purposes, The Planning Commission 3-D Visualization Project, highlighting the Hillsborough River Virtual Tour, and a presentation of a new Hillsborough River Canoe Trail map for display at public canoe launch facilities produced jointly by the TAC staff and SWFWMD.

The River Board is meeting on September 17, 2002 at the City of Temple Terrace Public Works Department at 1:00 p.m. The next TAC meeting will be 9/17/02 at the EPC offices at 1:30 p.m.



To review the most up-to-date River Board and TAC agendas visit the Planning Commission's website www.theplanningcommission.org and click on the *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact the River Board/TAC staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

Planning Commission Unveils Updated Website with Virtual River Tour

The Planning Commission recently unveiled a new look to its website, theplanningcommission.org, that includes all kinds of good information about the communities it serves. It also introduces a new cutting-edge technological breakthrough that uses aerial photographs with added 3-D imaging overlaid allowing the user to virtually fly anywhere within Hillsborough County, including along the Hillsborough River.

Visit this new website and take a demonstration ride up the river from downtown to the county line. Make a quick stop-over at Sulphur Springs, visit the dam, see Temple Terrace and learn as you go with informational pop-ups and still photos that guide you as you go on your tour! Now the river is only a click away!

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debris, garbage or waste of any kind except in such places or in such a manner as is lawful for the disposal of the waste under existing city, county, state and/or federal ordinances, laws and regulations. The City of Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County have similar code provisions that make it illegal to carry out these types of activities as well.

Besides the obvious downside of making the street/gutters in front of a property unsightly, it also can lead to clogged drainage ways which leads to flooding or worse, standing water. That in turn can then lead to unhealthy conditions developing, especially encouraging mosquito infestations. Standing water can also create a driving hazard if the water is deep enough.

Sweeping or blowing trash, yard debris/clippings into the

street or gutters may seem like a good idea, but it isn't. It is the easy way to make these things "disappear" but they don't, really. They end up going down into the stormwater drains and into the river and bay. All sorts of water quality problems can arise from doing so, including increased nutrient levels that leads to depleted oxygen levels and other chemical imbalances that are harmful to fish and wildlife.

So **PICK IT UP** and dispose of these items properly. The cumulative beneficial affect of all of us keeping our waterways clean and clear can start at home, in our own front or backyards. During the rainy season remember that what is once in the street will more than likely end up being carried into our river if it isn't picked up. Don't add to the problem that already exists.

If you have a yard service, tell

them to put that material in a container/bag. If you maintain your yard yourself take the time to follow the same rule.

If you see someone blowing or sweeping trash/debris into the road or gutter call and report them. The River will thank you for it!

Local Jurisdictional Code Enforcement Departments can be reached at the following:

City of Tampa:274-5545

City of Temple Terrace:989-7100

Hillsborough County:744-5568



Stop polluting
waterways;
Stormways DO
Drain to Rivers



New Equipment Measures River Flows

New equipment installed over the summer gives water managers and the public more complete information to monitor river level conditions in the City of Tampa reservoir and dam via computer. The United State Geological Survey (USGS) website that provides real-time surface water data has added a new feature that measures flow (discharge) at the dam as well as other parameters such as water depth in the reservoir and area precipitation. The site also provides historical data for some parameters.

The website specifically for the monitoring station on the Hillsborough River, at the dam and reservoir, is:

http://waterdata.usgs.gov/fl/nwis/uv/?site_no=02304500&PARAMETER_cd=00065,00060.

This site can now show the most recent data collected regarding the river reservoir level and indicates if there is a discharge to the lower river. This new added feature should help give a clearer picture

of what is happening in the river. Before the discharge information was available it could be concluded by some upon seeing the reservoir level (gage height) lower than 22.5', the top of the dam, that there was no-flow. However, discharges to the lower river from the reservoir can be made with the reservoir level registering less than 22.5 by operation of gates in the dam structure.

While there has been continuous flow at the dam since July 4th, the reservoir has not often topped off at 22.5'. This is mainly due to water being released downstream to minimize potential upstream high-water conditions by opening the dam gates. However, installation of equipment necessary to see those releases wasn't completed until early August. If you viewed the reservoir levels over the summer and saw the level below 22.5' you would have likely believed there was no flow during the summer. Not so! Be sure to refer to the discharge levels when monitoring for flow at the dam!



Tower Lighting Update

The City of Tampa Parks Department is working to shed some light on one of the City of Tampa's and Hillsborough River's most visible and historically outstanding landmarks, the Sulphur Springs Tower. Parks Department staff have been busy evaluating how to best light the tower structure and estimate the cost of the project.

The tower is located in the newly acquired Tampa River Tower Park located in Sulphur Springs. It probably won't be long before we can all enjoy the evening glow of this treasured tower shining down on our new park along the Hillsborough River.

Yesterday & Today



Burgett Bros. Photo Collection - USF Library



The central business district of Tampa has evolved over the years, adding new gleaming towers and expanding the public greenspace along the Hillsborough River. What was once a working river is now primarily used for recreational purposes and as a peaceful respite for office workers to walk along and catch a glimpse of nature's wonder right in the center of town. Manatees, dolphins and other aquatic animals are often spotted from glimmering offices towering above the river. It is interesting to see that the riverfront's face changes through time, coming to reflect the community sitting along its banks. That is why it is so important that we all strive to like what we see looking back at ourselves, and for those that follow us.

RIVER NEWS

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Robert B. Hunter, FAICP -Executive Director/HCCCPC

"Don't you think Ed is taking this virtual river tour on the Planning Commission's web site a little too seriously?"

"Oh no....now I don't worry about him being up the river without a paddle and I know right where he is!"

