

Partners in Planning

A PUBLICATION OF THE HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CITY-COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION



RIVER NEWS

Serving Tampa, Temple Terrace and Hillsborough County

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Safe Summer Boating Protects People & Marine Life

Summer months on the Hillsborough River are busy with all kinds of activity, particularly those involving motorized craft. The presence of pleasure boats plying the waters of the river is something everyone should be aware of and boaters should be aware of others on the waterway. Always be sure your craft is equipped with adequate safety devices.

Those operating motorized craft should be aware that there are craft speed zones that regulate operation on the Hillsborough River and should follow posted official signs in their craft's operation. Craft operators should also follow common sense when operating in the vicinity of other craft, moored vessels, bridges or persons on other modes of floatation. During high tides conditions, craft should operate such that minimum wake is produced. Recent reports have been made of fast-moving craft between

Sligh and Hillsborough Avenues that have been creating wakes that wash over and behind seawalls, causing erosion. This is something that can be avoided with more care being taken at the helm.

Reports of manatees and dolphins in the river have been made. The dolphins have been spotted from the downtown area upstream to past Hillsborough Avenue. Manatees were reported in the vicinity of Sligh Avenue the first week in June. A small alligator was reported in the area of Hanna's Swirl, patrolling the waters down to near Nebraska Avenue.

Safe boating on the river has been good over the years. If you enjoy the river on a watercraft keep up the good boating. It is important to remember that marine creatures are sharing the river. Sensible operation of watercraft is a responsibility and will keep the river safe for people and marine life alike.

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River Board Meeting Summary

The River Board met on June 3rd at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

- : The Cypress Creek Town Center Settlement Agreement.
- Proposed development plans for a portion of Two Rivers Ranch and a proposal for a new land use category in Hillsborough County to be called Planning Environmental Community.
- An update briefing on concerns relating to the use of treated wastewater in relation to downstream flow augmentation and the establishment of a minimum flow for the river.
- A TAC recommendation that the City of Tampa explore actions that could be taken that would result in the City regaining control of the Tampa Cruis-A-Cade site for public use a public boat ramp and park space.
- Review and approval of six Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- A briefing on an inter-jurisdictional environmental storm water summit.
- A report on the process for historic designation of specified bridge structures in Tampa that span the Hillsborough River.
- A report on roadway markers identifying the Hillsborough River at bridge crossings.
- A briefing on the award-winning entry submitted by the TAC to the Planning Commission's Annual Community Design Awards Program.

TAC Meetings Summary

The Technical Advisory Council met May 17th and June 21st at the Tampa Union Train Station. Among discussion/reports at the meeting were:

- : A discussion regarding the use of reclaimed water in proposed future river flow projects.
- Formulation of a letter regarding Tampa's Riverwalk efforts.
- Update on Tampa's Hillsborough River marker installations.
- Review of three Tampa Port Authority Minor Work Permit Applications.
- A status report on recent Hillsborough River levels.
- A presentation on bridge repair studies in Tampa.
- A briefing on the June River Board meeting.
- Update on EPC review of town home development at Fowler Avenue, City of Temple Terrace.
- Discussion regarding City of Tampa consideration of Environmental Crime Unit.
- Discussion on Marking 20th Year of Hillsborough River Board/TAC.
- Resolution Marking June as American Rivers Month.
- Future TAC meetings scheduled are on the third Tuesday of each month. All TAC meetings are scheduled to be held at the Tampa Union Train Station second floor meeting room unless otherwise noticed. TAC meetings begin at 1:30 p.m. To review River Board and TAC agendas visit our website at www.hillsboroughriver.org and click on *Agendas* under the River Board/TAC logo or contact staff at 273-3774, extension 323.

PROCLAMATION



In recognition of The Hillsborough River's Historical Significance ~ For its role in the development of the region as an American River, and In recognition of the importance of maintaining the Hillsborough River's viability as an Ecological Resource, as the habitat of a wide diversity of plant and wildlife, both terrestrial and aquatic, and In the interest of perpetuating the Hillsborough River's ability to contribute to the community's economic well-being as a water supply and recreational resource, and in acknowledgment of the shared importance of all Rivers; Be it resolved that June is recognized as American Rivers Month and that the Hillsborough River and all rivers are recognized for their valuable contributions to their respective communities throughout history.



Wet Conditions Usher in Hurricane Season - River Levels Expected to Remain Steady to High

Summer weather conditions in the Hillsborough River area will play the most significant role in near-future water levels in the river and reservoir. Rainfall levels during historically drier spring months in the basin resulted in higher than expected river flows and levels. High water conditions in the reservoir level during the spring lowered some with a break in rain events.

Short-term forecasts predict nearly daily rain events, some heavier if tropical weather develops. This will mean tributaries and the river will continue to gain flow and may cause flooding conditions to nearby low-lying areas. The City of Tampa will continue to monitor conditions in the reservoir and take the appropriate steps to minimize high water conditions if river levels change due to tropical influences.

YOUR River Board wants to hear from YOU! Call the River Hotline at 272-5940



THE RIVER BOARD & TAC- A 20-YEAR INTROSPECTION



The Hillsborough River Interlocal Planning Board & Technical Advisory Council have been working to manage the Hillsborough River, within Hillsborough County, Temple Terrace and Tampa, for 20 years. In recognition of this effort, over the next year, each issue of the

River News will feature an article highlighting the many fine agencies and people that have helped in this endeavor.

The Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County has provided the River Board and TAC with support throughout the years. In the early days, the EPC was instrumental in helping the River Board & TAC understand existing conditions in the river, particularly focusing on water quality data and interpretation. Under the direction of Roger Stewart, the EPC started providing water quality data in the mid-1980s and continues to provide this type of information. The EPC's data collection on river conditions has been valuable in tracking improvement in the river's water quality. Tom Cardinale, long-time EPC laboratory manager, frequently brought pertinent information on water quality trends to the attention of the River Board & TAC. This information has also been used in answering questions from elected officials and the public in relation to the river's water quality.

The EPC has served the community well in investigating water quality problems that have occurred from time to time over the years. The EPC has been vigilant in investigating and identifying sources of pollutant spills that have gone into the river, ranging from sewer overflows to waste water from an ice cream shop that used to be located along the river's banks. On numerous occasions, the EPC has been the resource called upon when an unexplained fish-kill has been observed in the river. The EPC would work to determine the cause which often times turned out to be a naturally occurring algae bloom but sometimes was the result of activities that would have the unintentional consequences of harming the river.



coliform levels that posed a threat to public safety and welfare. The EPC helped to identify up-gradient pollution sources contributing to this poor water quality. More

During the 1980s, the EPC played a central role in the monitoring of deteriorating water quality conditions at Sulphur Springs pool which subsequently was closed to swimming due to



recently, the EPC has been assisting in the District's formulation of a minimum flow for Sulphur Spring.

The formulation of a minimum flow for the lower Hillsborough River found the EPC challenging a flow rate considered less than ideal for the lower river by the EPC. Countless hours were invested by the EPC in trying to assure that a minimum flow of a sufficient magnitude was established for the lower river, one that would maintain or improve the river's water quality and the ecological systems that depend on the river for survival. The EPC has been working with the District in formulating a minimum flow for the river upstream of the dam and for other waterbodies in the county, including the Tampa By-Pass Canal and river tributaries.

The EPC serves the community through oversight reviews of activities that impact the environment, including the river. Shoreline alterations, wetland impacts, and marine-related structure placement are a few of the types of projects the EPC reviews that have an impact on the Hillsborough River.

The EPC has been a vocal advocate for manatee protection in the Hillsborough River and other county waterways. The EPC helps to monitor manatee activities and to assure that manatee habitat is preserved.



The EPC has a long-term commitment to keeping the environment clean and has participated nearly every year in the Tampa Mayor's Annual Hillsborough River & Waterways Clean Up and other waterway clean up events, contributing man-power and boats to these efforts.

The EPC staff is an important link between regulatory authority and the community it serves. The EPC's involvement with the Hillsborough River Board & TAC over the past 20 years has evolved to meet the changing needs of the growing communities they serve and will continue to provide the River Board & TAC with vital information regarding the river's future management.

RIVER NEWS

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Change Service Requested

Not if you've been swimming in Sulphur Springs!

