

**Annual Commitments to Action Summary Table of Project Recommendations and Commitments
Tampa Portfields Pilot**

May 17th-18th, 2005 – Tampa Port Authority, Tampa, Florida

Project # 1 - Brownfields Redevelopment

Summary:

There are around 100 acres of Brownfields sites on port property in various stages of remediation. The main sites targeted by the port for brownfields redevelopment are Port Ybor (50 acres), a former scrap yard site operated by Tampa Scrap Processors (10 acres), and the active Tampa Bay Shipbuilding and Repair Co. Inc. site (40 acres). The port faces eligibility issues with regard to brownfields funding for some properties because the Port of Tampa owns the sites and therefore may be liable for releases of hazardous substances on the properties. The brownfields amendments to CERCLA prohibit the use of brownfields funding for addressing contamination for which the grantee may be found liable.

Recommendations:

- Transfer or turnover tax breaks/tax credits provided under the State of Florida program to private entities;
- Apply to State of Florida for targeted brownfields assessment funding and/or for source removal funding;
- Work with potential lessee who may be willing to pay for site cleanup and redevelopment up front in exchange for future use of the site;
- Look into sub-parceling contaminated properties to locate petroleum-only areas and address liability and grant eligibility concerns;
- Investigate transferring a deed for a specific property to a party who may be eligible to apply for grants for the cleanup of brownfields;
- Partners could provide seed funding to the TPA for additional grant writing capacity to leverage additional funding;
- Look into additional transportation planning funds – Regional Transportation Authority and SEAMAC funding;
- Valuable information on federal grant programs at www.grants.gov.

Commitments Table

Name	Agency	Commitments
Patricia Overmeyer	EPA	Investigate Port of Tampa's eligibility issues related to federal brownfield grants for properties contaminated predominately with petroleum.
Bob Musser	TPA	Create a more detailed list of specific help needed for brownfields redevelopment.
Barbara Schuster; Bob Musser	EPA; TPA	Investigate possibilities and determine a strategy for re-parceling sites to be able to apply for petroleum-specific brownfields grants.
Kenneth Walker; Brent Ache; Arwen Edsall	NOAA	Create a funding matrix for federal and state programs' grants including dates, timelines, and contacts.

Project # 2 - Wave Energy Study – Longshore Bar Project

Summary:

This project is a local effort by the Tampa Bay Estuary Program to study wave energy (natural and/or man-made) and its potential harm to seagrass beds as well as the role that longshore bars have played in protecting seagrasses from wave energy. The project includes creating a man-made longshore bar from dredge materials. The port hopes to develop a seagrass recovery strategy from their findings.

Recommendations:

- Find PhD students or a Sea Grant fellow to provide extra support – Sea Grant contact is Chris Simoniello;
- Apply to Penny Hall at the NOAA Restoration Center for on-the-ground habitat restoration support;
- Hold a national meeting/symposium to reach out to the academic community – hold a "state of the science" – on impacts of wave energy on seagrass.

Commitments Table		
Name	Agency	Commitments
Jane Mergler	USACE	Bring local USACE wave energy scientists to the next working group meeting to provide models for the project.
Lindsay Griffen	NEP	Will provide USGS contact names and phone numbers for additional modeling expertise.
Mark Sramek	NOAA	Will continue to collaborate with NOAA's NMFS Habitat Restoration Center (RC) and additional federal state and federal agencies on this project's development.
Mike Henderson	NOAA	Will help work out the coordination of instrumentation for vessel traffic as a part of the PORTs system.

Project #3 - Habitat Restoration, Creation, and Protection
<p>Summary: This project is an effort to stabilize shorelines, increase and protect existing habitats and create habitats for fish, shellfish and bird species along the dredge disposal islands 2-D and 3-D, both of which are at or near capacity. These dredge soil islands have become prime bird nesting habitat, including nesting sites for many migratory bird species, and is one of Florida's largest nesting sites for the American Oystercatcher, a Florida listed species of special concern.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TPA can coordinate potential Tampa Bay habitat restoration projects with the NOAA Restoration Center. • Use USACE 1135 authority [modifying an existing USACE project – Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)] to fund habitat restoration projects using a local sponsor. • Use fencing to help build up beach sand. • Create a stabilizing structure along altered shores and plant mangroves to help hold beach.

Commitments Table		
Name	Agency	Commitments
Bob Musser	TPA	Apply to USACE for restoration for environmental quality for entities built by USACE – 1135 Authority. TPA will need to speak with its congressional liaison about 1135 projects.
Doris Marlin	USACE	Will bring interests together at a mid July meeting to determine what 1135 authority opportunities are available for the FY06 budget including exotics removal.

Project #4 - Improving Tampa Bay PORTS System and VTIS System
<p>Summary: The Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (PORTS) in Tampa Bay is a system of sensors providing real-time current, water level, and wind measurements at locations around the bay. The equipment was purchased and put into place but now there are problems with repairs and general operation and management of the system. The program is in part funded by a Florida state phosphate tax and support from a tri-county port agreement. NOAA was involved in the equipment installation and provided support and technology. NOAA also recently conducted an economic analysis of PORTS in Tampa Bay that should be published soon. The study results are expected to highlight the benefits of the system and help leverage funding for the system. A primary need for the PORTS project is a system of visibility sensors since visibility for traffic is often impaired and ships need at least three miles of view to navigate the bay.</p> <p>The Vehicle Transportation Information System (VTIS) is a system being developed to improve navigational safety within the Bay using GPS and GIS information. The Coast Guard has six employees assigned to the VTIS system. There is an issue with the AIS (Automatic Identification System) parts and the receiver systems not matching. TPA is currently using the older receiver system and the Coast Guard has mandated upgrading to the new system. This mandate includes upgrading software to match the new system and should be an inexpensive process. But, at this time, TPA is still of identifying needs before they go ahead with the upgrade.</p>
<p>Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look into additional funding through Department of Homeland Security and Coast Guard. • When the economic study is released, use the results to lobby Congress for additional funding.

Commitments Table		
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Name	Agency	Commitments
Brent Ache	NOAA	Will look into how the PORTS and VTIS projects can benefit from and be leveraged as applications of IOOS (Integrated Ocean Observing Systems).

Project #5 - Innovative Stormwater Project

Summary:
 Funding from NOAA is being used to develop an innovative stormwater improvement project. Using a contract with a geospatial company called PhotoScience, a Geographic Information System (GIS) has been developed and is being used to determine which sites would be best for potential drainage ditches, retention ponds, and habitat and stormwater improvement projects on land not currently leased out at the Port. This project goes above and beyond the regulatory mandate for stormwater treatment by looking at ways to put in best management practices in areas of the Port that are not going to be used for future development.

- Recommendations:
- Collect data on potential sites to determine which sites have the greatest environmental impact and to establish the type of technology necessary for the pollutants passing through those sites.
 - Apply for 319 grants.

Commitments Table

Name	Agency	Commitments
Kenneth Walker; Brent Ache	NOAA	Will support site selection workshop in the next few months.
Jan Rogers	EPA	Will investigate opportunities for creative application of wetlands grants program.
John Sego	DEP	Will look into funding and TA time available for water quality monitoring.
Lindsay Griffen	Tampa Bay NEP	Offered services of a grant writer that will be made available after sites have been selected – this person has a section 319 (Clean Water Act Nonpoint Source Management Program 1987) grant writing specialty.
Mark Sramek	NOAA	Will review preliminary designs of TPA habitat and stormwater projects in accordance with provisions of Magnuson-Stevens Act pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
Barbara Schuster	EPA	Will talk with the EPA water office regarding innovative stormwater control and treatment technologies.

Project #6 - Maritime Security

Summary:
 Since September 11th the need for port security upgrades has increased. TPA was successful in obtaining some state and federal grants for required upgrades. A portion of the ad-valorem tax revenue goes toward security soft costs. But, as new properties are redeveloped and are available for use, especially at Port Ybor, new security requirements emerge as areas need to be secured and then monitored. The costs are proving to be very high for ongoing monitoring and maintenance of equipment. TPA is looking for additional funding for infrastructure, surveillance, fencing, and security personnel.

- Recommendations:
- Work with MARAD in grant application process.

Commitments Table		
Name	Agency	Commitments
Bob Musser	TPA	Apply for security grant by June 16th using online application.
Kenneth Walker	NOAA	Find out if it would be possible for a letter to go out from Vice Admiral Lautenbacher to Admiral Collins to try to get support for security funds and encourage cooperation between the Coast Guard and the Portfields effort.
Bob Musser	TPA	Produce a matrix of funding, types and amounts, the port has received already.

Project #7 - Port Facilities Improvements

Summary:

This project involves berth reconstruction and the construction of a container terminal facility to include more environmentally friendly electric cranes that require less maintenance. The main need at this time is for funds to pay for the electrical retrofitting of the cranes that TPA is purchasing. The new cranes have an initial cost significantly more than diesel cranes, but will provide cost and environmental benefits to the Port over the longer term. TPA is looking for grant and funding opportunities for adding electrical infrastructure.

Recommendations:

- Contact DOE to find out if there are funding programs that could cover the costs for the cranes.

Commitments Table

Name	Agency	Commitments
Kenneth Walker	NOAA	Will ask about electrical SEAMAC/DOT/DOE retrofitting funding availability.
Kenneth Walker	NOAA	Will call Willie Taylor at EDA to find out about infrastructure improvements funding opportunities.
Barbara Schuster	EPA	Will look into electrical power funding options through the air program at EPA.

Project #8 - Newspaper in Education – Tampa Portfields

Summary:

This is a partnership program with the Tampa Tribune's Newspaper in Education (NIE) program. TPA will bring six middle school and high school students to the port for a tour, and then the students will interview people who work at the Port. The Tribune will then develop articles highlighting these specific themes, as well as the Portfields initiative and Brownfields issues. This will help meet state education standards for the Hillsborough County School curriculum. Articles also will be distributed with the newspaper. TPA is looking for \$22,000 for printing costs.

Recommendations:

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Commitments Table

Name	Agency	Commitments
Lindsay Griffen	Tampa Bay NEP	Will provide information about Estuary Program's Bay Mini Grants (up to \$7,500 for various projects, usually educational materials) including contacts, requirements, and deadlines.

Project #9 - Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)

Summary:

In February 2004, the International Maritime Organization proposed regulations to reduce the spread of ANS. TPA has studied ANS issues at the Port of Tampa for over two years and helped to fund the invasives display at the Florida Aquarium. Ballast water exchange, a recommended measure to curtail transport of invasives via ballast water, is voluntary along with testing the water for the presence of ANS. Testing of incoming vessel ballast water for ANS is now moving toward becoming mandatory. TPA is concerned about this prospect and how this will affect the port. The Port is looking for support for this process as well as support for monitoring needs.

Recommendations:

- Partner with the Coast Guard on invasive species to get their help if reporting and testing become mandated.

Commitments Table

Name	Agency	Commitments