

Climate Change Task Force Meeting (CCTF)

Thursday, May 8, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Government Center Room 430 / zoom

Summary Minutes

Members Present

Co-chair: Commissioner Nan Rich

Co-chair: Mayor Furr

Brown Grosvenor, Sheri

Coscio Carballo, Isabel

English, Baldwin

Etessam, Shahin

Gottlieb, Lee

Jones, Elisa

Kaltman, Adrienne

Kornahrens, Robert

McCarthy Bulman, Maura

Metayer Bowen, Nancy

Morris, Ken

Poole, James

Root, Tara

Shuham, Caryl

Trupia, Peter

Vialpando, Lenny

Welch, Sandra

Members Absent

Carbon, Albert

Gutsche, Robert

Tejeda, Julio

Robson, Col. Steve

Schafer, Alissa Jean

I. Welcome

Mayor Furr welcomed the members of the task force.

II. Call to Order

Mayor Furr called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

III. Roll Call

Roll was called. Nineteen (19), members were in attendance, and five (5), were absent.
A quorum was present.

IV. Approval of Minutes of February 6, 2025

A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of accepting the minutes of the February 6, 2025, meeting. *

V. Announcements

Mayor Furr announced two new members (Mr. Tejeda and Mr. Poole) to the Task Force. There is one remaining vacancy for the hospital district.

Presentations and Discussion Items

A. Countywide Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy (EVCI): Dr. Gregory J. Mount, Assistant Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Environment Department

Dr. Mount provided background for the EVCI approach, information gathered and the purpose of the strategy.

- a. A sample set using Broward County employees was used to study commutes to help determine where EV charging stations might be needed. 6,800 employees commute over 46 million miles annually. 1.9 million Broward residents, nearly all drive personal vehicles, and the transportation sector accounts for 55% of total community wide GHG emissions.
- b. The purpose was to analyze existing charger utilization and forecast EV adoption trends; prioritize access to EVCI for renters or those without at-home charging; and identify opportunities zones for County investment in public EV charging stations.
- c. The data gathered included EV annual sales, EV ownership rates by municipalities, and proximity to existing chargers. This data was used in models to determine where there are charging deserts, areas where the demand is currently met and potential energy consumption increases.
- d. The project team worked with Broward staff to create a priority list of potential sites throughout the County. The criteria used were high traffic areas, areas with limited EVCI, multifamily housing, larger employers, public facilities and flood risk factors.

B. Transit EV Plan: Ross Meslin, Director, Transit – Transportation Operations Rail Administration

Mr. Meslin provided details about Broward County Transportation's Fleet Diversification Plan for FY25-FY30.

- a. The current County goal is to purchase only electric vehicles starting in 2030.

208 electric vehicles were purchased between 2019 and 2025. 31 Proterra electric buses and two MCI electric buses were purchased between 2020 and 2023.

- b. Some challenges for Transit were created due to one of the bus manufacturers Proterra who filed for bankruptcy creating bus repair issues. MCI buses have some reliability but experience long lead times getting certain parts.
- c. The proposed bus diversification plan is putting a pause on bus electrification and focusing on diversifying across electric, alternative fuel, and diesel buses. Staff plan to periodically review the electric bus industry and pursue alternative energy infrastructure.
- d. The County's Fleet focus is on diversifying with electric, hybrid and internal combustion to be able to respond to emergencies, build in resiliency and meet agency needs.

A Motion to support the BCT Bus Diversification Plan and direct staff to develop language in support of the Plan to be brought before the Broward County Board of County Commissioners for their consideration and approval was made by Peter Trupia, seconded by Ken Morris and approved unanimously.

C. Sustainability Update: Monica Pognon, Director, Natural Resources Division

Ms. Pognon provided the link to the new Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP) and provided an update on Division programs, projects and partnerships related to the new CCAP that included:

- a. Youth Climate Action Fund Grant. Round two for \$100,000 began and a global announcement day occurred on April 22, 2025. Staff received 16 applications for projects totaling \$72,250 and the application process will be kept open until the end of June or until the money is exhausted. Project completion date is October 31, 2025.
- b. Air Program.
 - 1. May is Air Quality Awareness month. There are a lot of tabling events throughout the month. Events are posted on the website.
 - 2. Staff maintain a network of ambient air monitoring stations around the county which provide data for the Air Now website where anyone can check the status of air quality that day.
 - 3. The air program also has an air sensor loan program and produces an air quality newsletter.

c. NatureScape and Water Conservation.

1. The Conservation Pays program has awarded over 400 toilet rebates.
2. The NatureScape Irrigation Systems program is working on a new 5-year Interlocal Agreement for water conservation.
3. NatureScape produces a newsletter and hosts quarterly meetings.
4. Staff continue to post creative social media content.
5. The partnership with Broward County Public Schools reached nearly 2,000 students by delivering presentations, conducting water audits, and custodial and teacher training and plantings. On February 7, 2025, NRD staff and School Board staff hosted the 7th annual Broward Youth Climate Summit at Pompano Beach High School with an attendance of nearly 1,000 students.
6. The 23rd annual Water Matters Day was held on May 8, 2025, at Tree Tops Park with an attendance of over 4,000 people. 2,100 trees were given out as a part of the event.
7. April 8, 2025, represents the 20th year certified as a National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat for Broward County.

d. Marine Resources.

1. Staff are a part of the Regionwide Reef Monitoring Partnership by monitoring 25 sites offshore in Broward County. Monitoring includes an annual stony coral survey, and documenting bleaching and disease.
2. The Mooring Buoy program inspected/maintained 122 offshore Mooring Buoys.
3. There is a partnership with the City of Deerfield Beach, Coastal Conservation Association, Port Everglades and the Division to deploy an artificial reef during summer of 2025.
4. The living shoreline current partnerships include Wahoo Bay and New River Middle School.
5. Sea Turtle season started April 9, 2025. The season runs from March 1 through October 31st each year. To date 79 nests were laid.
6. The manatee season ended on March 31, 2025. 2782 manatees were observed with an average of 146 manatees per week. Staff also conducted 28 site facility inspections and participated in 18 outreach events.
7. The Dune Grant Program approved eight projects to start work. There are also two projects in review.

D. Legislative Update: Marty Cassini, Director, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs/Boards, County Administration

Mr. Cassini provided several legislative updates that included, but are not limited to the following:

- a. There are no current allocations in the draft budget. The House of Representatives is looking at a permanent cut to the sales tax rate. The Governor is looking at relief on the business rent tax. The Senate President is looking for a targeted sales tax relief. The House of Representative and Senate are putting together their own budget plans.
- b. House Bill 209 passed which does not allow certain recreation such as Pickel Ball at state parks.
- c. Senate Bill 492 passed regarding mitigation banking. The bill expands the way developers who are affecting water quality can apply for mitigation banks.
- d. Senate Bill 50 and House Bill 371 under Coastal Resilience specific to dunes and having the Department of Environmental Protection look at more feasibility studies died.
- e. Senate Bill 1822 and House Bill 1609 would have kept and reinstated the pre-emption on single use plastics but died.

E. Resilience Update: Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Environment Department

Dr. Jurado provided an update on the Resilience Plan, Economic Resilience Collaborations and Extreme Heat Outreach that included:

- a. Resilience Plan Update.
 - 1. The Resilience Plan is now published in three forms which include an Executive Summary, a condensed plan and the full plan. The total cost of everything included in the plan includes two large funding components (private sector and public sector) not one single funding source. The plan proposes phased implementation and is in addition to the Central and South Florida (C&SF) project. It focuses on secondary and tertiary water management systems.
 - 2. The next steps are implementation through policy, regulation and active investment. This includes establishing an adaptation action area, increasing stormwater storage requirements, enhancing green streets requirements, reducing impervious cover and green development incentives. A new website is being developed for public access, education and interaction.

b. Economic Resilience Collaborations.

1. A Resilient Broward Forum presentation and call to action event was held. Summary provided at the conclusion of the event noted the plan was responsive to private sector requests, requested the private sector support local government in terms of the funds needed for implementation, asked for the community's additional tolerance to additional regulation that will be needed to support implementation, and urged broader sharing to engage peers.
2. A Resilience Finance and R-Cities event occurred that was focused on advancement of portfolio-based resilience efforts. The attendees represented cross-sectoral expertise in areas of risk, finance, emergency preparedness, purchasing and administration. Staff also conducted Hollywood site visits that included the City, FDOT, County parks and the CRA.

c. Extreme Heat Update.

1. Using gathered data, Resilience staff have been working to develop several maps focused on high-risk priority areas, maximum temperatures, and heat-related emergency visits for a six-year timeframe in Broward County.
2. Resilience staff have been coordinating with the Broward Medical Examiner to collect extreme heat and illness data. Staff presented to the Emergency Medical Services Council and scheduled a presentation for the Healthcare Practitioners Network. They will be hosting a Resilience Readiness Roadshow with other organizations.
3. The next step includes a proposed pilot for coordinated heat outreach.

F. Landfill and Solid Waste Master Plan Update: Mayor Beam Furr

Mayor Furr provided an update that included, but is not limited to the following:

- a. Broward County has one of the biggest landfills in the world. One of the main places to reduce methane is in landfills. Organics are the main cause of methane so the discussion in developing the plan was to take the organics out of the landfill. By 2027, the goal is to take the organics to Okeechobee and introduce composting.
- b. There are updates to the plan regarding expanding the landfill to allow for construction debris for emergency response related to hurricanes.
- c. Waste reduction and recycling are also main focuses in the plan.
- d. The Solid Waste Master Plan draft will be released soon, and Mayor Furr would like the CCTF to review and provide input.

VI. Member Updates / Topics of Interest

Ken Morris spent time with Jeff Goddell who wrote the book called the, *The Heat Will Kill You First* which examines the impacts of rising temperatures. He recommends reading the book.

VII. Other Business and Discussion

Dr. Jurado mentioned the desire to hold another central county climate conversation event and requested CCTF member assistance and recommendations for structuring the next event.

Adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2025, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.