

## Climate Change Task Force Meeting (CCTF)

Thursday, December 4, 2025

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Government Center Room 430 / zoom

### Summary Minutes

#### Members Present

Co-chair: Commissioner Nan Rich  
Co-chair: Commissioner Beam Furr  
Carbon, Albert  
Cosio Carballo, Isabel  
Etessam, Shahin  
Dahl, Robert  
Gottlieb, Lee  
Jones, Elisa  
Kaltman, Adrienne  
Morris, Ken  
Murphy Salomone, Cindy  
Poole, James  
Root, Tara  
Shuham, Caryl  
Trupia, Peter  
Schafer, Alissa Jean  
Vialpando, Lenny

#### Members Absent

Brown Grosvenor, Sheri  
English, Baldwin  
Gutsche, Robert  
Kornahrens, Robert  
McCarthy Bulman, Maura  
Metayer Bowen, Nancy  
Robson, Col. Steve  
Tejeda, Julio

#### **I. Welcome**

Commissioner Furr welcomed the members of the task force.

#### **II. Call to Order**

Commissioner Furr called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.

#### **III. Roll Call**

Roll was called. Seventeen (17), members were in attendance, and eight (8), were absent. A quorum was present.

**IV. Approval of Minutes of December 4, 2025**

A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously in favor of accepting the minutes of the December 4, 2025, meeting. \*

**V. Announcements**

No announcements were made.

**Presentations and Discussion Items**

**A. 2025 Broward Resilience Plan Grant Recommendations:** Dr. Gregory J. Mount, Assistant Chief Resilience Officer, Resilient Environment Dept

Dr. Mount provided a presentation on the 2025 Broward Resilience Plan Grant Recommendations that included:

- a. The objectives of the grant were advancing the Countywide Risk Assessment and Resilience plan, achieving project benefits, delivering results to build future funding, updating models to reflect completed projects for insurance benefits, and creating a coordinated approach to broader funding strategies.
- b. Adaptation strategies from the Resilience Plan that were evaluated included reducing impervious areas, storage above and below ground, conveyance by improving structures such as canals and culverts or additional pumping, creating barriers such as seawalls, nature-based and/or engineered structures, large-scale levees or other close out structures, and emphasis on green infrastructure and heat mitigation.
- c. The goals of the grant:
  1. Reduce flood risk and support economic outcomes consistent with the Resilience plan recommendations.
  2. Reduce depth of flooding at least 6 inches within basins where design storm flood elevations exceed finished floors of critical assets, residential, or commercial properties.
  3. Improve basin drainage enhancements that provide 100-year flood protection of existing structures at a ratio of at least 1 structure per \$10,000 in project cost.
  4. Reduce flood risk affecting critical assets.
- d. Based on these goals, the grant focused on culvert design and construction. There was a total of \$1,500,000 available to grant with a maximum of \$500,000 per project. The grantee had to provide a 50% cost share to the County to qualify for consideration.
- e. Six project proposals were received. Staff developed scoring criteria consistent with the Resilience plan to evaluate each proposal. The total

requested for five projects considered (one did not qualify) totaled \$2,050,000 with a total project cost for all of those five projects at \$11,764,807. The projects include:

1. City of Cooper City – SW 49<sup>th</sup> Street culvert rehab/replacement project
  2. City of Hallandale Beach – Gulfstream Park stormwater pipe improvement
  3. City of Sunrise – Basin 15 culvert upgrades at NW 50<sup>th</sup> and NW52<sup>nd</sup> streets
  4. City of Weston – Indian Trails Drainage District/Saddle Club Road culvert addition
  5. Broward County Wastewater Services, Water Management District
- f. The five projects were presented to the Water Advisory Board/Technical Advisory Committee for consideration. City of Sunrise, City of Cooper City, Wastewater Management/Water Management Division, and City of Hallandale projects were recommended to move forward to a grant.

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

Dr. Jurado provided an update on Resilience Projects and Initiatives that included:

- a. Resilience Roundtable.  
This is an annual event with cities, businesses, and tribal council. This year was the seventh year. It was co-hosted by Mayor Furr and Senator Rich with County Administration support as well. Dr. Jurado, John Mitnik from the South Florida Water Management District and Eva Perez from US Army Corp. of Engineers presented about advancing the 203 study. The roundtable included a business leadership panel to discuss policy backing and completion of critical projects. The event also included time for municipal leaders to highlight work they are doing in their city.
- b. COP30 Local Leaders Forum Highlights and Takeaways.
  1. This year's event was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in November. There was a strong emphasis on greening communities. Some projects highlighted included Project Oasis, Green Infrastructure, Lane Conversions, Cooling Canopies, Emissions Reductions, Heat Mitigation, and Air Quality Improvements. The key messaging and takeaways are extreme heat is an escalating issue across communities and the globe, and we are all currently on track for 2.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.
  2. Gina McCarthy, former administrator of the US EPA attended. She is now Managing Co-Chair of America is All In, who was one of the major sponsors in Dubai and helps to create opportunities for local leadership to participate in these global forums. Other prominent virtual attendees included John Kerry, former U.S. Secretary of State and Al Gore,

former Vice President of the United States and now Chairman of the Reality Group.

3. It was announced that Bloomberg Philanthropies is launching another round of Youth Climate Action Fund grant.
4. Some wisdom shared included, “Don’t wait for the best plan ever. It doesn’t exist and you’ll have to adapt in the meantime” from Rotterdam. From local leaders, “Do better than your national governments”, Build bridges, learn from colleagues, collaborate”, and “Leverage political power and voice”.

c. Section 203 Update.

1. This study area is a part of the Central and South Florida Flood Resiliency section. The project study area is focused on nine upstream inland managed watershed basins, seven primary canals, and nine water control structures. The purpose of the study is to help answer the question, “which proposed flood damage reduction plan is the best from an economic standpoint?”. This is done by evaluating existing conditions, evaluating a future without project conditions, and analyzing alternative damage reduction plans.
2. The study is currently under Federal completion by the U.S. Army Corp. of Engineers which includes agency consultations, public notification and comments, and final review of NEPA portions of the report.
3. A Tentatively Selected Plan was drafted and includes what was modeled from preferred strategies that were taken from different alternatives. To help ensure flood resilience, every basin in the study contains project elements and all primary structures in the study are replaced or improved with hardening and canal modifications proposed. It includes five new or expanded pump stations, significant improvements in gravity conveyance, and redundancies in pump bays and gates to ensure operation even during maintenance or offline periods. The project is focused on improving the primary system infrastructure, and these actions will be completed by other efforts at the county or local level.
4. It was presented to stakeholders in Broward County in September. Public comments are due mid-December. Submittal of a final Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment to the ASA Civil Works for WRDA is planned for May or June of 2026.

d. Coastal Resilience.

1. The Sand Bypass Project construction which has been 30 years in the making initiated in October of 2025. It will provide 50% of the sand needs for southern beaches which have the highest rate of erosion in Broward County. The total construction cost is \$90,000,000. The construction includes four phases: dredging, North Jetty improvements, reef mitigation and future rubble clearing. Maintenance events will be conducted every two to four years to harvest collected sand placement south of the inlet.
2. The County has a goal of assisting with having beach dunes along 80% of the county oceanfront shoreline. Dunes are one of the first lines of

defense in protecting coastal infrastructure. The County budgets \$50,000 annually for local project grant funding. Dunes are also built into the large beach renourishment projects. For segment three, approximately 30,000 linear feet of dunes are going to be constructed with approximately 300,000 native dune plantings starting in January of 2026.

e. Resilience Plan Implementation.

1. The following projects are examples for consideration for implementation:

- \$20 M – Low-cost culvert improvement projects
- \$65M – \$150M – High priority, basin-specific and coastal projects
- \$1 Billion – All Tier 1 Projects and location specific capital improvements county-wide
- \$5.5 Billion - Zone 1 Improvements, locations specific capital projects, coastal pumps and drainage behind seawall
- \$2.6 Billion – Additional swale and storage projects as identified within municipal jurisdictions

2. Some of the funding opportunities and strategies include:

- \$1.5 M in fiscal year 2026 for culvert improvements as a part of County budget
- Section 219 Infrastructure Funding – WRDA 2024 authorization, provides up to \$50M with 75% Federal and 25% Local cost share.
- Broward Back Bay Study – Priority recommendations of USACE/South Atlantic Coastal Study
- Resilient Florida Grant Program – Bolster applications, leverage individuals and county-wide plans

f. 2026 Compact Summit Planning.

Broward County will be hosting the 2026 Climate Summit November 4-6<sup>th</sup>. The theme is “Capitalizing on Climate”. There will be an Innovation Day on day one of the summit. The winners will present their pitch during the summit.

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

Ms. Pognon provided an update on Division programs, projects and partnerships related to the current CCAP that included:

a. Air Program.

1. The 2026 Clean Air Calendar theme was Level Up Against Climate Change. The winner was a student Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Her artwork will be on the cover of the calendar.
2. As a part for the Climate Change Action Plan element 39, the air

program helps to collaborate on air quality monitoring, education and health through the air sensors via Citizen Science program. Orange Elementary and Virginia Shuman Young Elementary are active in this year's program. Car Care Month is October of each year. Staff provided educational materials in many libraries within the County. Staff also participated in Florida Panthers Stem Day.

b. NatureScape and Water Conservation.

1. The Conservation Pays program is in the final year of the five-year Broward Water Partnership with municipalities. Staff is working on the next Interlocal Agreement to renew the partnership. Staff worked with a multifamily unit property to upgrade 200 toilets in Fort Lauderdale.
2. The NatureScape Irrigation Services program won a NACIO award for their YouTube short feature and staff continue to create new content.
3. The NatureScape Broward program conducted a Habitat Steward training. Habitat Stewards assist the staff by promoting our programs, attending events and volunteering at Water Matters Day. This training also partnered with Park's Naturalist programs to expose the Habitat Stewards to County parks and what they offer.
4. In October, staff worked with Commissioner Davis to host a tree giveaway event at Miramar Pineland Park. The event had a great turnout with 456 trees given out.
5. Through the Broward County Public Schools Environmental Partnership staff were able to engage with over 2,500 students in this quarter.
6. Water Matters Day is on Saturday, March 14, 2026. The theme is, "Reclaim Water, Regrow Nature".
7. The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Broward County Youth Climate Summit is on February 6, 2026, at Pompano Beach High School. The theme is, "Trash Talking. Less Waste, More Action".
8. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual P3 Eco-Challenge is collecting applications through April of 2026.

c. Marine Resources.

1. Staff performed disturbance response monitoring at 30 sites as a part of participation in the regionwide reef monitoring program the runs from August 27, 2025, through September 12, 2026. They also completed surveys at seven sites to collect scientific data on the status and trends in reef biodiversity as a part of the partnership with the Smithsonian Institute.
2. The Mooring Buoy program service contract was renewed for another five-year term with Industrial Divers Corp. Inc. to inspect and maintain

122 offshore mooring buoys.

3. Staff is working through the County's procurement process to issue a Request for Information to conduct market research into options for an artificial reef installation.
4. The Sea Turtle season ended on October 31, 2025. The total for the season included 2,956 nests of which 2,307 were Loggerhead, 596 were Green and 53 were Leatherback. The Lighting report for 2025 is currently in review for this season.
5. Manatee season began on November 15, 2025. Some of the statistics from last year's season include 189 site facility inspections, assistance with three searches for suspected manatee strandings, participation in 29 outreach events, and observance of 2,796 Manatees. This season runs to March 31, 2026.
6. The Board of County Commissioners approved new dune restoration grant language and a change in the maximum award amount from \$5,000 to up to \$10,000. Staff is currently developing informational dune grant program guidelines and seeking applications for the fiscal year 2026 grant period.
7. Marine staff presented material on the County's coastal and marine natural systems at over 25 events and facilitated region-wide quarterly meetings including both state and local reef managers in SE Florida.
8. The South Florida Reef Rangers Podcast created by staff continues to air with new content each month. The latest podcase is Lola the Lion Fish and can be accessed on Spotify.

d. Sustainability.

1. Round two of the Youth Climate Action Fund grant will conclude soon. 24 applications were received with 20 projects awarded. Project completion was extended to December 15, 2025.
2. Reminder about the Plastic Free Broward Ordinance on County property and information about greening your routine can be found on the Natural Resources Division website.

**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. The Water Resources Development Act is starting to be put together with the first hearing on December 17, 2025.
- b. The President is looking to prioritize the Gulf to expand oil expansion and drilling. He is also looking to lower the car emissions standards from 50 mph to 34 mph by 2031.
- c. The regulation of auxiliary containers Bill includes a new concept that prohibits local government from in-acting rules or regulations for the disposal, sale, restriction, or tax of auxiliary containers but does not apply to glass auxiliary containers on public property or single use plastic auxiliary containers on public property. The bill keeps rules that were in place prior to January 1, 2026. Prohibits single use plastics at State parks as well.
- d. Senate Bill 290 includes a mandate that would forbid class B biosolid application to land and would require class AA biosolids be applied to land. This is set to become effective July 1, 2026.
- e. House Bill 123 would delete all soil and water conservation districts.
- f. House Bill 479 and Senate Bill 718 preempt local governments from regulating any kind of water quality, quantity, pollution control, or pollution discharge.
- g. House Bill 611 and Senate Bill 508 establish statewide irrigation standards.
- h. Senate Bill 302 establishes nature-based solutions for coastal resilience.

**VI. Member Updates / Topics of Interest**

Lee Gottlieb advised this would be his last meeting. He was appointed ten years ago and shared his focus over those years, specifically on dune restoration efforts and work with youth on eco-action programs. He thanked his fellow committee members and staff. A thank you plaque was presented in gratitude from the Climate Change Task Force.

**VII. Other Business and Discussion**

**Adjourned at 3:49 PM.**

**Next meeting: Thursday, February 5, 2026, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.**