

MEETING SUMMARY JOINT WATER ADVISORY BOARD AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 12, 2025

A joint meeting of the Water Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Committee was held on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 430 of the Broward County Governmental Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I. Call to Order

Senator Geller called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

II. Roll Call Broward Water Advisory Board (WAB)

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Dr. Greg Mount.

Name	Present	Virtual	Absent	Alternate	M/A
Senator Steve Geller – Chair	X				M
Mayor Sandra Welch - Vice Chair		X			M
Councilmember Jim Allbritton	X				A
Commissioner Pamela Beasley-Pittman	X				M
Commissioner Doug Bell	X				M
Governing Board Member Ron Bergeron	ALT			Julio Tejada	M
Commissioner Kevin Biederman	X				M
Vice Mayor Mark Bogen			X		M
Commissioner Anthony Caggiano	X				M
Albert Carbon – TAC Chair	X				M
Commissioner Rhonda Eaton	X				M
Mayor Michelle J. Gomez		X			A
Vice Mayor Tom Good	X				M
Commissioner Aisha Gordon			X		A
Commissioner Denise Horland		X			M
Vacant Alternate					A
Vice Mayor Nancy Metayer-Bowen		X			A
Mark Peterson	X				M
Councilmember Susan Starkey		X			M
<i>Vacant Layperson</i>					M

III. Roll Call Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

A quorum was present following Roll Call by Dr. Greg Mount.

Name	Present	Virtual	Absent	Alternate Name	M/A
Albert Carbon (Chair)	X				
Vacant Utility Director					
Alan Garcia		X		Mike Zygnerski	
Allison Witoszynsky	X				
Brett Butler			X		
Commissioner Doug Bell	X				
Darren Badore	X				
David Walker			X		
Dawn Teetsal		X		Deann Von Stetina	
Giovanni Batista			X		
Heather Cunliff	X				
Isabel Cosio Carballo	X				
Vacant Utility Director					
Dr. Jennifer Jurado	X				
Jose Lopez		X			
Luis Ochoa		X			
Patrick Davis	X				
Pete Kwiatkowski		X			
Rafael Frias	X				
Renuka Mohammed	X				
Rodrigo de Castro		X			
Stephanie Pearson			X		
Steve Holmes		X			
Suzanne Mechler	X				
Talal Abi-Karam (Vice Chair)	X				

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. **Approval of March 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Good made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 14, 2025. Commissioner Caggiano seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Caggiano motioned for Senator Geller to continue chairing the Water Advisory Board. Commissioner Biederman seconded the motion.

Commissioner Carbon nominated Commissioner Caggiano as Vice Chair of the Water Advisory Board.

VII. Updates and Announcements

Overview of Public Meeting Held Tuesday, September 9, 2025:

- The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) hosted a public meeting on the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project.
- Due to sea level rise, the existing system, originally designed for gravity drainage, was determined in 2009 to be approximately six inches from design failure.
- Broward County and SFWMD each contributed \$5 million to advance a study aligned with the anticipated 2026 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funding approval and authorization.
- The meeting presented the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), including modeling results, proposed features, and details to be incorporated into the final report. Dr. Maran's presentation will cover the project update in further detail.

VIII. Presentations:

a. 2025 Broward Integrated Water Resources Plan Grant

Dr. Greg Mount, Assistant Chief Resilience Officer, Broward County

- Dr. Mount provided an overview of the current Integrated Water Resources Plan (IWRP) grant cycle and the projects recommended for funding, which aim to provide sustainable alternatives to meet future water needs in Broward County.
- This year's cycle received five grant applications, two for feasibility and design, and three for construction. Proposed projects include:
 - Reuse systems for irrigation in Pompano Beach
 - A potable reuse pilot project in Davie
 - Expansion of Hollywood's *Recapture the Swale* initiative to add bioswales and permeable pavers for enhanced green infrastructure
 - A median irrigation reuse project in Miramar
- County staff evaluated projects based on feasibility, analysis, and design. All submissions are recommended for funding. The TAC has already voted in support of staff's recommendations.
- Upon WAB approval, projects will advance to the Board of County Commissioners for final approval. Staff will collaborate with municipalities to develop scopes of work, execute Interlocal Agreements, and seek commission approval by March 2026, with project implementation anticipated in late spring 2026.
- Commissioner Good moved to approve the proposed grants; Commissioner Caggiano seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Broward County Rapid Alert and Information Network – RAIN

Mr. Stefan Perritano, Climate Resilience Coordinator, Broward County Resilient Environment Department

- Mr. Perritano introduced the Rapid Alert and Information Network (RAIN), a countywide flood warning system designed to monitor roadway conditions.
- Increasing urban density, higher rainfall intensity, and more frequent rain events have created a need for advanced monitoring and early warning systems to prevent emergencies and reduce property loss.
- The County conducted research on comparable systems and piloted a network of solar-powered sensor towers. These sensors are installed in roadside catch basins to detect rising water levels and send alerts to a centralized dashboard.
- Once fully implemented, RAIN will provide real-time data accessible to both emergency responders and the public, improving roadway safety and planning during heavy rainfall and tidal flooding events.

c. Broward County Legislative Update

Mr. Stuart Rimland, Legislative Counsel, Broward County Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

- **PFAS Regulations:** The Office of Legislative Affairs is monitoring federal rulemaking related to maximum allowable PFAS concentrations in drinking water.
- **State Legislation:** The 2026 State Legislative Session begins on January 13. Broward County is preparing a State Appropriation Request to secure funding for septic-to-sewer conversion projects.
- **Property Taxes:** The State House Committee on Property Taxes has proposed measures that could appear as a 2026 ballot initiative, potentially lowering or eliminating property taxes. Such changes would significantly affect county budgets.
 - Senator Geller emphasized the importance of communicating to residents how property tax revenues are allocated.

d. Section 203 Update

Dr. Carolina Maran, Division Director and Chief of District Resiliency, South Florida Water Management District

- Dr. Maran provided an update on the Section 203 Study for the Central and South Florida Flood Control Project. The study aims to identify and evaluate flood risk management strategies to enhance system resiliency and protect

local communities.

- The study explores both structural improvements (such as canal expansions, gate enhancements, and new pump stations) and nature-based solutions (including floodplain restoration, wetland management, and rain gardens).
- SFWMD conducted extensive assessments and modeling to develop the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), balancing cost-effectiveness with comprehensive community and environmental benefits.
- The TSP is currently open for public comment and will be submitted for inclusion in the 2026 WRDA with a proposed funding level of \$1.5 billion.
 - Senator Geller encouraged members to engage with federal representatives to advocate for funding and support implementation.

IX. New Business

a. Topics for Discussion at Future WAB Meetings

No new business was discussed.

Lake Okeechobee Water Levels: (ft-NGVD 1929)

- *This month:* 12.31
- *Last month:* 11.51
- *One year ago:* 14.78

Next scheduled Joint WAB/TAC Meeting –

November 14, 2025. Vimeo + GC East, Room 430

Next scheduled TAC Meeting –

October 17, 2025. Hybrid, GC East, Room 430

X. ADJOURN

Chair Geller closed the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

****Requires WAB vote.**