

Palm Beach County Water (PBC) Resources Task Force (WRTF)

Thursday May 28, 2026, 9:00 AM

Canyon Branch Library Conference Room,

8915 Senator Joe Abruzzo Avenue, Boynton Beach, FL 33472.

Meeting Minutes

The following meeting minutes are not transcripts of the meeting, rather they are a summary to capture the key information of the presentations and the discussion that arose from the presentations. Copies of the presentation are available on the WRTF web page.

Water Resources Task Force Members				
<u>Seat ID</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Organization</u>
1	Rick Sartory	Town of Tequesta	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
2	Joaquin Almazan	City of Belle Glade	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
3	Lisa Interlandi	Village of North Palm Beach	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
4	DD Halpern	Town of Juno Beach	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
5	Karen Lythgoe	Town of Lantana	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
6	Greg Langowski	City of West Lake	Vacant	<i>City elected official</i>
7	Gregg Weiss (Chair)	Palm Beach County Mayor	Vacant	Palm Beach County Commissioner
8	Poonam Kalkat	City of Boynton Beach	Vacant	Water/Wastewater Provider Official
9	Tommy Strowd	Lake Worth Drainage District	Vacant	<i>Lake Worth Drainage District</i>
10	Vacant		Vacant	<i>Drainage/Water Control District elected official</i>
11	Jay Steinle	South Florida Water Management District	Sherry McCorl	South Florida Water Management District
12	Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair)	Former Council Member City of PBG	Vacant	<i>Environmental Representative</i>
13	Robert Shorr	Town of Loxahatchee Groves	Vacant	<i>Agricultural Representative</i>
14	Michael Johnson	Indian Trail Improvement District	Greg Shafer	Indian Trail Improvement District

Roll call was taken with sufficient attendance for quorum. During roll call there were eleven of thirteen appointed seats present. The members attending are listed below:

- Rick Sartory Seat 1
- Joaquin Almazan – Seat 2
- Lisa Interlandi – Seat 3
- DD Halpern – Seat 4
- Karen Lythgoe – Seat 5
- Greg Langowski--Seat 6
- Poonam Kalkat – Seat 8
- Tommy Strowd – Seat 9
- Jay Steinle Seat 11 – Attended Remotely
- Rachelle Litt (Vice Chair) – Seat 12
- Michael Johnson – Seat 14

The following three members were absent.

- Gregg Weiss (Chair) – Seat 7
- Robert Shorr – Seat 13

With a quorum, there was unanimous approval of the December 18, 2025, meeting minutes.

Jonathan Rubin, Executive Director Clean Earth Initiative, provided a presentation on Clean Earth Initiative PFAS Research Result and Legislative Update. The following bullets provide summary points from the presentation.

Jonathan Rubin:

- Provide history, purpose, and uses of Per- & Polyfluorinated Alkyl substances (forever chemicals). Uses include textiles, carpets, paper, paints, cosmetics, coatings... Used as lubricants, flame retardants, solvents for polymers, fire-fighting foams.
- Provide history of growing concern since 2012 and increased presence in water supply. By 2025 increased concern and correlation with increased cancer risks.
- Drink water is a primary concern as it is a considerable source based on the long-term direct consumption.
- Based on the current finding and considerable cost of the treatment methods required to sufficiently remove forever chemicals “PFAS is the most expensive contamination the US has ever face”
- Presentation described the considerable cost of testing for forever chemical constituents and described their screen method that uses PIGE Analysis of Fluorine. Characterization effort include the collection and evaluation of water samples from 100 locations within Palm Beach and Broward County. Results track with the more expensive constituent analysis.
- Most of Broward, Palm Beach County relatively low compared with known hotspots, e.g. Pensacola, Tallahassee, Space Coast, Miami-Dade, Tampa/St Pete
- Eleven States have enacted Maximum Concentration Level (MCLs) and Twelve state have established guidance, health advisory, or notification levels.

- In 2026 Florida state passed House Bill 1019 prohibiting the use of fire fighting foam containing forever chemicals.
- The US EPA 2024 Maximum Concentration Limits are PFOA of 4 ng/L, PFOS of 4 ng/L,
- The presentation noted the emerging concern for ultra short chain PFASs [e.g. Trifluoroacetic acid (TFA, C2)]

There was some discussion on where this reconnaissance level testing would be beneficial as most of the municipalities in PBC are based on their capacity required to test for forever chemical using the methods required by EPA.

Michael Tompkins, Lead Project Manager, Ecosystem Restoration Planning & Project Management Section for the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) provided an update on SFWMD Loxahatchee River Watershed Restoration Project (LRWRP.)

- Project Purposes include
 - Improve freshwater flows to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River
 - Restore the hydrology and connectivity of wetlands and watersheds that form the historic headwaters of the river
- Task Completed
 - Project authorized by Congress – Water Resources Development Act 2020
 - Restricted Allocation Area (RAA) rulemaking – June 2022
 - Pre-partnership Credit Agreement (PPCA) – July 2022
- Tasks Underway
 - Preliminary Design
 - Relocations
 - Permitting
 - Agreement Discussions
- Northwest Fork of Loxahatchee River target flows
 - Dry Season Target - Project is expected to meet the 30-day average of at least 69 cubic feet per second (cfs) 91% of the time
 - Wet Season Target - Project is expected to provide at least 120 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 120 days 98% of the time.
- Flow Way 1 – Flow through CWPB GWP. Includes pump station to capture excess water from Indian Trail Improvement District Lower Basin that would otherwise be lost to tide and deliver it to NFWLR through CWPB GWP. SFWMD expects to execute modeling contract by July 2026. Current schedule is to advertise for construction in 2029.
- Flow Way 2 – C-18 Reservoir and ASR. Preliminary Design start in 2023 with substantive design changes based on input from the September 2024 Design Charette. Agreements and stakeholder engagement – Ongoing. Next steps is Intermediate and final design contracts with a goal of advertising in 2029
- Flow-Way 2 Florida Power & Light Relocation/C-101W/L-101W. Transmission poles in M-0 connector canal footprint. Power lines are too low for construction and maintenance safety. Will need to be relocated and raised. Preliminary design complete with an initial cost estimate of \$6,000,000.

- Flow Way 3 – Improvement of Hydrology of North Basins (e.g. Golfstream East, Kitching Creek). Design work initiated in 2022 with first construction expected to be procured in 2027.

Paul Linton, PBC Water Resources Manager, provided a quick update on the status of Lake Okeechobee providing the following information.

Lake Okeechobee (Lake O) stage was 11.17 feet NGVD on May 27, 2026 which is

- About 0.24 feet higher than a year ago
- About 2 feet below average.

Based on this stage and the SFWMD forecast there is about a 25 percent likelihood of Lake O entering the Water Shortage Management Zone (WSMZ) and staying there.

During public comment Sue Loyzelle, an Arden resident expressed her concern over the potential impact of the Data Center in the Central Park of Commerce Center (located west of Arden along the north side of Southern Boulevard). Ms. Loyzelle requested that the WRTF weigh in on the water issues associated with this development. The WRTF members discussed the need/benefit of having more specific requirements for data center, but, with the application for this project already submitted it was communicated that any input from the WRTF would only affect future projects. Ms. Drum pointed Ms. Loyzelle to the ongoing information provided by PBC Planning and Zoning on their web page.