

**Biscayne Bay Commission Minutes**  
**Nov. 12, 2025, at 10 a.m. EST**  
**GoToWebinar**

**General subject matter overview:** The Biscayne Bay Commission meets to review and discuss plans to address water quality impairments, as well as the priority projects and financial resources that could address these plans.

<b>Attendee Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>
Noah Valenstein	Chair	Present
Adam Blalock	Vice Chair	Present
Micky Steinberg	Commission Member	Not Present
Tim Meerbott	Commission Member	Present
Scott Wagner	Commission Member	Not Present
Dr. Thomas Reinert	Commission Member	Present
Spencer Crowley III	Commission Member	Present

### **Welcome and Introduction**

Mollie Cordo from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection’s (DEP) Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection welcomes attendees online and informs the audience that the meeting is being recorded. She adds that a copy of the agenda is in the handouts section of GoTo Webinar and that public comments are due by Nov. 19, 2025. Public comments may be emailed to [BBCommission@FloridaDEP.gov](mailto:BBCommission@FloridaDEP.gov).

### **Commission Procedural Items**

Chair Valenstein takes roll call. Previous meeting minutes will be sent for review and the vote for approval is postponed until the next meeting.

### **Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves Management Plan Updates**

Griffin Alexander, manager of the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserves, provides a presentation on the contents, review and feedback on the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve 2025 Management Plan that was recently approved by the Acquisition and Restoration Council in October. Griffin highlights the ways that the Management Plan aligns with the commission’s strategic plan and their goals.

The commissioners discuss the possibility of securing funding for pumpout vessels that could help improve water quality. Chair Valenstein asks if there were any contentious issues that came up during the process that the commission has not heard yet. Marine debris and water quality continue to be front of mind for the public and reviewers.

### **Miami Dade County Reasonable Assurance Plan Updates**

Pamela Sweeney with Miami-Dade County presents updates for the Reasonable Assurance Plan progress and working with stakeholders, municipalities and experts to carry out parts of the plan including modeling and projects to improve the Bay water quality.

The commission discusses the timeline for these projects and staying on track with milestones and goals.

### **South Florida Water Management District Updates**

Richard Virgil of South Florida Water Management District provides update on the maintenance cleanings at specific coastal structures using various methods of removal as well as providing details on the new aquatic vegetation and trash rule. He also suggests items to include in management plans and best management practices for those whose discharge enters the main waterways.

The commission discusses sources of debris and some of the larger debris found in the canals that cannot be seen or picked up on the surface, as well as the frequency and location of removals targeting these large debris obstructions.

### **Protecting Florida Together Water Quality Status Dashboard Walkthrough**

Sara Davis and Julia Danyuk with DEP's Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency present the newly updated Protecting Florida Together website and how it can be used to learn more about state actions, resources on water quality education for all ages and a grants portal for water quality related projects. Additionally, Julia walks the audience through the water quality status map, highlighting the trends for nutrients that can be viewed for different waterbodies throughout the state, as well as red tide and blue green algae blooms.

The commission discusses the grant opportunities and Commissioner Crowley encourages the audience to prioritize actionable projects focused on cleaning up the Bay when applying for grants.

### **Public Comments**

Public comments are opened. Each commenter is limited to three minutes.

- Virtual commenter: Valeria Donets
  - Comments on the need for a stronger Biscayne Bay Aquatic Preserve Management Plan due to the severity of the ecological issues facing Biscayne Bay and its connection to the Reasonable Assurance Plan.
  
- Virtual commenter: Laura Reynolds
  - Comments on the Florida International University and Biscayne Bay Reef, Observation, Interpretation and Prediction System effort to consolidate water quality data in Biscayne Bay to fill data gaps and monitor real time information on the Bay.

### **Commission Discussion**

Chair Valenstein opens discussion to hear thoughts and ideas from commissioners about today's meeting in addition to reminding commissioners and responsible organizations to update the project tracker.

Commissioner Crowley announces that the Florida Inland Navigation District fiscal year ended in September. A total of \$7.7 million was awarded by Florida Inland Navigation District's 2025 grants to local community organizations. These funds went to 21 different projects, 11 of which were from law enforcement entities or safety organizations.

### **Closing Remarks and Adjournment**

Chair Valenstein makes closing remarks. Mollie Cordo mentions the opportunity to participate in the upcoming public comment period for the Kristin Jacobs Coral Aquatic Preserve Management Plan, date and location to be announced. The meeting is adjourned.