	Tuesday, February 24, 2026
7:30am- 8:30am	**Check-in for Preregistered Attendees -** Pickup Symposium Materials *Onsite registration not available*
	Early Morning Refreshments [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]
8:30am- 10:00am	**Opening Plenary Session** [Rion Ballrom - 3rd Floor] **Introduction and Welcome** **Matt Cohen,** Director, University of Florida Water Institute **David P. Norton,** Vice President for Research, University of Florida
	Keynote Speaker **Joseph Shapiro** *Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics Department, UC Berkeley* **"The New Economics of U.S. Water Quality Policy"**
10:00am- 10:30am	**Morning Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 10:30am - 12:00pm

	Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
	Session	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Session Title	**Water Infrastructure and Monitoring for Resilient Communities**	**Data Flows to Decisions: Integrating Environmental and Financial Analytics in Water Supply Planning**	**The Scientific Echo Chamber: What to do when Scientists are the Only People Listening**	**Nutrient Cycling & Biogeo-chemistry**	**Coastal Habitat Restoration and Management**	**Florida BMPs on Water and Nutrient Management of Row and Horticultural Crops**	**Predictive Tools and Modeling for Water Quality Solutions**
	Moderator/ *Session Organizer	**Cody Gusto** University of Florida	***Tirusew Asefa** Tampa Bay Water	***Kellie Keys** Florida State University	**Ming Ye** Florida State University	**Howie Gonzales, Jr.** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	***Davie Kadyampakeni** University of Florida	**Sara Davis** Florida Department of Environmental Protection
10:30am		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
10:35am		**Cody Gusto** University of Florida Charting Challenges and Opportunities Ahead: Expert Consensus on Stormwater Pond Management	**Fikadu Welidehanna** Tampa Bay Water Long-Term Urban Water Demand Forecasting: A Bayesian Hierarchical Approach	Designed for scientists and professionals seeking to be heard, this session features presentations from four communication scholars and an environmental scientist, followed by a 20-minute Q&A. Panelists share practical, research-based techniques for clearly conveying complex environmental information to non-scientists, helping attendees communicate vital insights more effectively. **PANEL:** **Kellie Keys** Florida State University - How to Identify the Expert in the Room **Angela Bradbery** University of Florida - Tips and Techniques for Communicating with Nonscientists **Andy Opel** Florida State University - Visual Scientific Storytelling **Jason Evans** Stetson University - Beyond the Scientific Echo Chamber **Chad Hanson** The Pew Charitable Trusts - Working with Stakeholders on Policy Wins	**Jeffrey King** Suwannee River Water Management District Benthic Flux to the Suwannee River Between Dowling Park and Ellaville, Florida	**Anna Braswell** University of Florida Developing an IRL Oyster Reef Quick Assessment Guide Through Inter-Institution Coordination	**Michael Dukes** University of Florida Introduction to BMPs - Overview of the UF/IFAS Nutrient Management Program	**Holden Harris** University of Florida Simulating the Impacts of Land-Use Change with the Suwannee River Ecosystem Model
10:50am		**Jennifer Smith** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers USACE Project Integration in Southeast Florida	**Hui Wang** Tampa Bay Water Assessment of Future Need: Timing and Quantity of New Supply Infrastructure Investments		**Audrey Goeckner** University of Florida Hydrologic Variability Shapes Soil Moisture, Microbial Communities and Carbon Cycling Functions Acro	**J. Barrett Carter** Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. The Effects of Midnight Pass Re-Opening on Flushing in Little Sarasota Bay	**Vimala Nair** University of Florida Optimizing Fertilizer Use to Protect Water Quality: Managing Phosphorus in Florida's Diverse Soils	**Fangfang Yao** University of South Florida SWOT Satellite Observations of Reservoir Storage Declines from Sedimentation
11:05am		**Alexander Miller** HDR Borrowing from Australia: Comparing Florida's Stormwater and Flooding Regulations to Abroad	**Nisai Wanakule** GSI Environmental Inc. Environmental Performance Metric Evaluation for Master Water Plan Feasibility Studies		**Yuseung Shin** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Stream Metabolism Increased with Continuous Nutrient Enrichment in Western Greenland	**Vladimir Paramygin** University of Florida Forecasting the Future of Mangroves: Modeling Migration, Flood Protection, and Resilience to Sea Levels	**Lakesh Sharma** University of Florida New BMP Development and Adoption in Row Crops: Lessons Learned and Steps Forward	**Bewuket Tefera** University of Florida Predictive Groundwater Quality Responses to Land Cover and Lithology in the Upper Awash River Basin
11:20am		**Jennifer Mitchell** St. Johns River Water Management District A 20-Year Performance Analysis of a Constructed Wetland's Use to Improve Lake Apopka	**Dan Schmutz** GPI From Model Results to Environmental Understanding: Planning for Ecosystem Sustainability		**Ming Ye** Florida State University Long- and Short-Term Impacts of Lake Dry-Downs on Groundwater Geochemistry for a Sinkhole Lake	**Amanda Chappel** University of Florida Key Ecological Indicators Reveal Changes in Seagrass Meadows in an Anthropogenic Influenced Estuary	**Hardeep Singh** University of Florida Yield Goal-Based Nitrogen Recommendations for Cotton in Florida with a Focus on Water Quality	**Adelbert (Del) Bottcher** Soil and Water Engineering Technology, Inc. Assessment of Hydrology and Water Quality For the Peace River Watershed
11:35am		**Shisbeth Tabora-Sarmiento** University of Florida Enhancing Public Health Monitoring Through Wastewater Epidemiology	**Tirusew Asefa** Tampa Bay Water Resilient Water Utility Planning: Balancing Supply and Fiscal Risk		**Samantha Howley** University of Florida Temporal and Spatial Carbon Dynamics in Flatwood, Headwater Streams: The Active-Passive Pendulum	**Kallan Latham** University of Florida Evaluating Development Scenarios to Protect Vital Sportfish Habitat in SW Florida	**Davie Kadyampakeni** University of Florida Trends in the Novel Nitrogen and Phosphorus Rates for Developing New Rates for Citrus Trees	**Shaw Huang** Suwannee River Water Management District Calibrating a 2D HEC-RAS Model of an Outstanding Florida Spring with ADCP Measured Flow Velocities
11:50am		**Discussion**	**Discussion**		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
12:00pm-1:30pm		**Lunch [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm

	Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
	Session	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Session Title	**Understanding Water Quantity Dynamics**	**AI, ML and Big Data for Water Systems**	**Integrating Science and Community Engagement to Strengthen Sustainable Watershed Stewardship**	**Managing and Restoring Submerged Aquatic Vegetation: Science and Practice**	**Extreme Events and Coastal Hazards**	**Water and Nutrient Dynamics in Agricultural Systems**	**Advancement of Fate and Transport of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) in the Soil**
	Moderator/ *Session Organizer	**Olesya Savchenko** University of Florida	**Joel Harley** University of Florida	***Kassy Holmes** Rollins College	**Savanna Barry** University of Florida	**Katherine Serafin** University of Florida	**Haimanote Bayabil** University of Florida	***Rafael Muñoz-Carpena** University of Florida
1:30pm		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
1:35pm		**Tara Bongiovanni** St. Johns River Water Management District Taylor Creek Reservoir / St. Johns River Water Supply Project Water Yield Analysis	**Gregory Conde** University of Florida Physics-Informed Neural Networks for Predicting Crop Water Needs	This interactive, three-part session begins with a panel discussion introducing the topic and speakers' relevant experience. Speakers then rotate among small audience groups (10–15 people) for facilitated, in-depth conversations supported by roaming note takers. Audience members actively contribute ideas and questions throughout. The session concludes with speakers sharing key takeaways from the small-group dialogues. **Keeli Carlton** Seminole County Florida **Edward Millar** University of Windsor **Tom Mould** Rollins College **Shannon Carnevale** UF/IFAS Extension **Emily Nodine** Rollins College	**Andrew Altieri** University of Florida Simple Sustainable Intervention to Reverse Ecological Feedback Driving Seagrass Retreat	**Dushan Kavishka Mulkirigala Kankanamalage** University of North Florida Numerical Simulation of Hurricane-Driven Sediment Transport Processes of a Florida Barrier Island	**Duplicate Sambani** University of Florida The Use of Organic Acids to Improve Soil Health and Nutrient Uptake in HIB-Affected Citrus	**Dengjun Wang** University of Florida A Review of In-Situ PFAS Treatment Technologies in Soil and Groundwater
1:50pm		**Johanna Engstrom** University of Florida How Vulnerable is Florida to Drought? A National Comparison	**Nicolas Fernandez** University of Florida Florida Water Quality and Quantity Enhanced Synthesis Tools - FLow Q2uest		**Savanna Barry** University of Florida Addressing Stakeholder Goals of Seagrass Conservation Through Actionable Research	**Xiaohui "Sherry" Qiao** Unversity of Florida Incorporating Water-Related Processes for Quantifying Hurricane Impacts on Agricultural Production	**Katie Pisarello** American Farmland Trust Crop Nutrient Profile Linkages to Water Resources Across Conus	**Andrew Zimmerman** University of Florida Biochar Adsorption of PFAS, with Emphasis on Biosolid Biochar
2:05pm		**Stephanie Long-Marquez** Chen Moore & Associates Different Tools, Different Goals: Hydrologic Modeling of South Florida's Western Basins	**Robin Speidel** Southwest Florida Water Management District A Decade of Data Stewardship: Evolving the Water Resources Data Collection Assessment Process		**Jian Jun Di** St. Johns River Water Management District Establishing Suspended Sediment Targets to Support Continuing Expansion of Aquatic Vegetation	**Aditia Rojali** University of Florida Probabilistic Compound Flood Inundation Mapping for the Lower Suwannee River FL	**Henry Pittman** University of Florida North Florida Water Impacts of Automation Technology Extension Programming for Drip Irrigated Crops	**Katherine Deliz Quinones** University of Florida Machine Learning Reveals Environmental Drivers of PFAS Distribution in Soils
2:20pm		**Qing Sun** St. Johns River Water Management District Delineation of Selected Springsheds Utilizing Regional Numerical Groundwater Flow Models	**Catherine Wolden** Southwest Florida Water Management District Aligning Data with Purpose: Southwest Florida Water Management District's Data Governance Journey		**Kevin Grace** DB Environmental, Inc. Sav Recovery at Scale: Response of Managed Wetlands to Drawdown and Large Lake to Turbidity Controls	**Y. Peter Sheng** Afilliation Role of Mangroves for Reducing Hurricane-Induced Flood Losses	**Josue St Fort** University of Florida Modeling Infiltration and Runoff During Strawberry Transplants Establishment Using Hydrus 1D	**AJ Reisinger** University of Florida PFAS Risks of Repurposing Wastewater and Biosolids for Environmental Benefits
2:35pm		**Patrick Tara** INTERA The Construction and Calibration of a Hydrodynamic Model of the Upper Withlacoochee To Support MFLs	**Saba Shaghaghi Khajehdehi** University of Florida Predicting Water Quality and Quantity in Florida Using Soft Computing Techniques		**Laura Reynolds** University of Florida Monitoring Trends in the Large Intact Seagrass Meadows Florida's Nature Coast	**Piash Chowdhury** University of North Florida Water Quality Modeling of the St. Johns River Estuary During Sea-Level Rise and Disaster Scenarios	**Shin-Ah Lee** University of Florida Coupled C, N, and P Cycling within an Agriculturally Dominated Watershed	**Jonathan Judy** University of Florida PFAS Concentrations and Partitioning Trends in Wastewater and Drinking Water Treatment Wastes
2:50pm		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
3:00pm-3:30pm		**Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

	Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (continued)
3:30pm-5:30pm	**Plenary Session:** ***Telling the Water Story: Science Communication for Impact and Action*** [Rion Ballrom - 3rd Floor] ***"The Science of Great Science Communication"*** **Ann Christiano,** Director, Center for Public Interest Communications, University of Florida ***"Getting to the Heart of Science Communication: Navigating Emotion and Conflict While Engaging"*** **Faith Kearns**, Director of Research Communications, Arizona Water Innovation Initiative ***"I'm a Reporter. You Should Talk to Me"*** **Jenny Staletovich**, Environmental Reporter,WLRN
5:30pm - 7:00pm	**Career Fair and Networking Reception** With sponsor networking opportunities and light refreshments [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]

	Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)
7:30am- 8:30am	**Early Morning Refreshments [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**
8:30am- 10:00am	**Plenary Session** [Rion Ballroom - 3rd Floor] **Introduction and Welcome** **Matt Cohen,** Director, University of Florida Water Institute **Plenary Session:** ***From Data to Decisions: Advancing Water Quality Concepts, Models, and Measurements*** [Rion Ballroom - 3rd Floor] ***"Making it Matter: Designing Scientific Research to Achieve Decision-Support Outcomes"*** **Mark Rains**, Professor of Geology, University of South Florida & Chief Science Officer, State of Florida ***"Current Trends in Legacy and Emerging Contaminants in Florida Waterways"*** **Joseph Bisesi**, Associate Director, UF/IFAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants (CAIP) ***"Technological Frontiers in Data-Driven Water Modeling"*** **Alison Appling**, Water Data Scientist, U.S. Geological Survey
10:00am- 10:30am	**Morning Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 10:30am - 12:00pm

Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
Session	**15**		**16**	**17**	**18**		**19**
Session Title	**Perspectives on Tool Improvements for Water Supply and Delivery System Sustainability and Operations**		**New Frontiers of Remote Sensing in Hydrology**	**Spring Ecosystem Dynamics**	**Resiliency Planning Initiatives for Water Resources Management in South Florida**		**Advancing Fecal Contamination Detection with Tryptophan-Like Fluorescence: Florida and Global Perspectives**
Moderator/ *Session Organizer	***Jeffrey Geurink** Tampa Bay Water		***Nargiza Ludgate** University of Florida	**Madison Trowbridge** Southwest Florida Water Management District	***Nicole Cortez** South Florida Water Management District		***Ansley Tilley** EcoStasis
10:30am	Introduction		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction		Introduction
10:35am	**Kshitij Parajuli** Tampa Bay Water Initial Steps to Assess Water Supply Sustainability Change Due to Land Use Change		This interactive session explores the emerging frontiers of remote sensing technologies in hydrology across diverse sectors, including GeoHealth, Agriculture, Aquaculture, Geology, Bathymetry etc. Designed as a World Café-style session, this format promotes dynamic dialogue through short lightning talks followed by small-group rotating discussions. The goal is to promote multidisciplinary dialogues, peer exchange, and practical insights into the real-world applications of remote sensing. **PANEL:** **Jasmeet Judge** Univeristy of Florida **Shirley Baker** University of Florida **Mickey MacKie** University of Florida **Peter Ifju** University of Florida **John Conklin** University of Florida Group Discussion	**Brett Connell** Trutta Environmental Solutions, LLC Wekiva River Eelgrass Mapping Using High-Definition Stream Survey (HDSS)	**Al Ali** South Florida Water Management District Rainfall Trends in South Florida		**James Sorensen** British Geological Survey Fluorescence spectroscopy for the real-time detection of faecally contaminated freshwater
10:50am	**Mark Ross** University of South Florida New Physical Process Simulation of Surface and Vadose Zone Hydrology for HSPF			**Katie Schoenberger** Suwannee River Water Management District Hydrodynamics of Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Motion: A Case Study in Florida Springs	**Tibebe Dessalegne** South Florida Water Management District Flood Control Effectiveness Evaluations at South Florida Coastal Structures		**Whitney Knopp** CU Boulder/Virridy Fluorescence in the Field: Validating and Applying a TIF Sensor to Monitor Microbial Water Quality
11:05am	**Yu Zhang** Michael Baker International Improving Effectiveness and Efficiency of Hydrologic Modeling Using Multiple Spatial Scales			**Madison Trowbridge** Southwest Florida Water Management District Drivers Of Benthic Macroalgae in Florida's Coastal Springs	**Nicole Cortez** South Florida Water Management District Enhancing Regional Resilience Through Flood Occurrence Data Collection and Stakeholder Engagement		**Terri Lewis** CereBulb Condition-Based Operations: Real-Time Intelligence for Florida's Water Quality Management
11:20am	**Manoj Shrestha** University of Central Florida Operational Seasonal Streamflow Forecasts with Rainfall Uncertainty for Water Supply Availability			**Katherine Wardinski** University of Florida The Influence of Dissolved Organic Carbon on Water Quality in Florida Springs and Groundwater	**Charles Jacoby** Florida Flood Hub Statewide Coupled Ocean-Atmosphere Regional Model		**Matthew Ross** OpenCurrent Skip The Proxy: Trustworthy, Direct Modeling of Water Quality Constituents
11:35am	**Solomon Erkyihun** Tampa Bay Water Simulation and Calibration of Tampa Bay Water's Regional Hydraulic Model			**Paul Donsky** Suwannee River Water Management District Hypoxia and Dissolved Oxygen Dynamics During River Intrusion Events in Florida's Springs	**Anushi Obeysekera** South Florida Water Management District Lower East Coast Water Supply Vulnerability Assessment		**Alex Johnson** Virridy How Low-Cost Continuous Sensor Arrays Create New Monitoring Paradigm for Utilities and Local Governments
11:50am	**Discussion**			**Discussion**	**Discussion**		**Discussion**
12:00pm-1:30pm	**Lunch [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
Session	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Session Title	**One Water in Action: Breaking Silos, Building Resilience, Managing Every Drop**	**Education and Outreach for Water Sustainability**	**Data for Decisions: Facilitating Florida's Enhanced Resilience**	**Restoring Spring Flows and Lake Levels in North Florida through Enhanced Aquifer Recharge**	**Central and Southern Florida Project: Evolution, Collaboration, and Lessons Learned: Part I**	**Nutrient Dynamics and Restoration Strategies**	**Tracking Change: Monitoring Water Quality and Ecosystem Health**
Moderator/ *Session Organizer	***Kelly Flowers Hass** Jones Edmunds	**Cynthia Nazario-Leary** University of Florida	***Lacey Lingelbach** Florida Flood Hub	***Rick Hutton** GRU	***Carolina Maran** South Florida Water Management District	**Luna Phillips** Florida AWRA/ Gunster	**Rick Copeland** AquiferWatch
1:30pm	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
1:35pm	This session will explore how Florida is implementing One Water principles through beneficial reuse, regulatory innovation, and strategic public outreach. We'll connect these efforts to the upcoming Chapter 373 revisions, highlighting implications for permitting, water supply planning, and regional water coordination. Discussion will emphasize how integrated management, interdisciplinary collaboration, and public engagement can help communities and utilities adapt and thrive in a changing regulatory landscape. **PANEL:** **Lee Hale** Hale Innovation **Gary Hubbard** City of Winter Haven **Kassidy King** City of Winter Haven **David Rathke** Resiliency Florida	**Cynthia Nazario-Leary** University of Florida Follow the Water: An Immersive Educational Approach to Building Water Resource Awareness	**Heidi Brockhaus** Florida Flood Hub Overview of the Florida Flood Hub	**Chris Keller** Wetland Solutions, Inc Recharge Wetlands for Environmental Restoration and Public Access	**Tarana Solaiman** South Florida Water Management District Bringing Critical Flood Control Infrastructure Projects into Design and Construction	**Edgar Guerron Orejuela** University of South Florida What Are the Chances? A Geospatial Tool for Predicting Nutrient Loading to Florida's Waterbodies	**Rick Copeland** AquiferWatch Nitrate Concentration Declines in Groundwater of the Santa Fe River Basin, Florida (2014 – 2024)
1:50pm		**Aishwarya Shankar** University of Florida Emriver Table as an Interdisciplinary Teaching Tool in Landscape Architecture Visualization	**Gary Mitchum** University of South Florida Sea Level Change Workgroup	**Robert Naleway** St. Johns River Water Management District Black Creek Water Resource Development Project	**Jason Engle** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Talking Operations in the C&SF Project	**David Tomasko** Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Development and Implementation of the Pollutant Load Reduction Goal for Sarasota Bay	**David Duffy** University of Florida River DNA Long-Read Sequencing: Rapidly Monitor Biodiversity, Wildlife, Pollution and Ecosystem Health
2:05pm		**Marianne Vernetson** University of Florida Bridging the Civic Gap: Engaging Students in Gulf Communities in Florida's Water Challenges	**Jayantha T. Obeysekera** Florida International University Rainfall Workgroup	**Warren Zwanka** Suwannee River Water Management District Enhanced Aquifer Recharge in the Santa Fe River Basin	**Bradley Foster** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan: A Puzzle Piece of the Central and Southern Florida Project	**Dan Dai** University of Florida Seasonal Patterns in Solute Concentrations in the North Lake Okeechobee Basin	**Morgan Edwards** University of Florida Tracking Water Quality in the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve
2:20pm		**Jamielyn Daugherty** University of Florida Water Schools Build Local Capacity for Water Resource Management in Central Florida	**Amanda Barroso** Florida Flood Hub Regional Climate Model	**Timothy Perkins** St Johns River Water Management District Water First North Florida Project	**Gustavo Suarez-Narvaez** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Addressing Change Conditions with the Central and Southern Florida Flood Resiliency (Section 216) St	**Shannon Salvatori** St. Johns River Water Management District Internal Phosphorus Recycling in Lake Jesup: A New Focus for Restoration	**Renee Price** University of Florida Vegetation Dynamics and Community Divergence in Central Florida Reference Wetlands
2:35pm		**Elizabeth Kelly** Martin County BOCC Regulations, Research, and Reaching Out: The Martin County Water Ambassadors Program	**Discussion**	**Ryan Popko** JEA JEA H2.0 Purification and Replenishment	**Walter Wilcox** South Florida Water Management District Broward Basins C&SF Flood Resiliency Project (Section 203) Alternatives and Comprehensive Benefits	**Madeline Sutherland** University of Florida St. Lucie Estuary, Where is the Carbon and Nitrogen Coming From?	**Patrick Williamson** Badger Meter Texas-Sized Resilience: How Galveston's Smart Water Network Endured Hurricane Beryl
2:50pm	**Discussion**	**Discussion**		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
3:00pm-3:30pm	**Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
Session	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**	**32**	**33**
Session Title	**Advances in Statistical and AI/ML-based Forecasting and Uncertainty Quantification for Water Systems**	**Waters & Words: Culture, History, and the Human Experience**	**Lightning in a Bottle – Lessons Learned from the Formation of Tampa Bay Water**	**New Approaches and Techniques for Setting and Assessing Minimum Flows and Levels in Florida**	**Central and Southern Florida Project: Addressing New Challenges through Lasting Partnerships: Part II**	**CHAWGing Along: Observations of the Charlotte Harbor Algae Work Group on macroalgae growth in SWFL**	**Water Quality Challenges in a Changing World**
Moderator/ *Session Organizer	***Nikolay Bliznyuk** University of Florida	**Paloma Carton de Grammont** University of Florida	***Michelle Robinson** Dialogue Public Relations	***Andrew Sutherland** St. Johns River Water Management District	***Zulamet Vega-Liriano,** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	***Katherine Rose** University of Florida	**Chamteut Oh** University of Florida
3:30pm	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
3:35pm	**Di Tian** Auburn University Deep Learning for Flash Drought Monitoring and Forecasting	**Weilan Ge** University of Florida From the Pearl of the Inner Harbor to Noah's Ark: The Transformation of the National Aquarium	Join Tampa Bay Water for a special 90-minute session featuring a screening of Lightning in a Bottle, the documentary chronicling the formation of Tampa Bay Water and the region's collaborative approach to solving water supply challenges. Following the film, hear firsthand insights during a panel discussion with key leaders involved in shaping these solutions. **PANEL:** **Steve Seibert** Former Pinellas County Commissioner **Ed Turanchik** Attorney, Former Hillsborough County Commissioner **R.Z. "Sandy" Safley** Consultant, Former Florida House of Representatives Member **Pete Dunbar** Special Counsel - Jones Walker, Former Florida House of Representatives Member **Sonny Vergara** Former Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District	**Courtney Shadik** St. Johns River Water Management District Improving Return Interval Calculations for Minimum Flows and Levels Event-Based Metrics	**Tim Gysan** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Integration of Flood Risk Management Projects into Regional Resilience Efforts	**Chris Anastasiou** Southwest Florida Water Management Distgict Seagrass or Macroalgae: Who Has the Competitive Edge? Implications for Coastal Resource Management	**Chamteut Oh** University of Florida Mechanisms by Which Hurricane Milton Impacted Microbial Water Quality in Coastal Environments
3:50pm	**Young Gu Her** University of Florida Entropy Matters: How Information Quantity and Quality Shape Hydrological Ml Predictions	**Oscar Gabriel Prieto** University of Florida Water and Power in the Ancient Andes: 4000 years of water management in the Southern Hemisphere		**Sandra Fox** St Johns River Water Management District A New Geoinformatics Approach for Spring Protection Zone Delineation	**Raymond Sciortino** Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. C&SF Flood Resiliency (Section 203) Study for Broward Basins - Engineering Process	**Nicole Iadevaia** Coastal & Heartland National Estuary Partnership (CHNEP) Leveraging Long-Term Water Quality Data and Partnerships for Assessment of Charlotte Harbor	**Shannan McAskill** St. Johns River Water Management District Water Quality Trends in Northern Coastal Basin, FL, and Implications for Coastal Habitat Management
4:05pm	**Sandra Guzman** University of Florida Integrating Physical Knowledge and Machine Learning for Agricultural Water Management: Field Application	**Gabriele Belletti** University of Florida Waters Through Time: SHINE project VR/3D Ecopoetic Timelapse of Florida's Springs		**Hua Zhang** Southwest Florida Water Management District Application of Central Springs Model (CSM) in Spring MFL Evaluation in SWFWMD	**Michael DelCharco** Taylor Engineering, Inc. C7 Basin FPLOS Phase II Study Economic Assessment	**Brandon Moody** Charlotte County BOCC Using Diverse Knowledge Sources to Drive Research Questions in Florida's Second Largest Estuary	**Serena Echols** University of South Florida Co-Design of Green Infrastructure to Improve Water Quality and Advance Environmental Justice
4:20pm	**David Kaplan** University of Florida Incorporating Operational Decision-Making to Forecast Estuarine Discharges and Water Quality	**Richard Kernaghan** University of Florida Labyrinth to Fort: On the Opacities of Rivers and the Ethnographic Promise of Bringing Close		**Tony Countryman** Northwest Florida Water Management District Addressing Floridan Aquifer Resource Concerns Through Management in Coastal Northwest Florida	**Francisco Pena** Galt Group Inc. Upper Kissimmee Basin Flood Direct and Indirect Benefits	**Kate Rose** UF/IFAS Extension Using Participatory Scientists to Track Nutrients and Habitat Change in Florida's Seagrass Meadows	**Savanna Wooten** Auburn University A Spatiotemporal Assessment of Urbanization and Cyanobacteria Proliferation in Polk County
4:35pm	**Mauricio Arias** University of South Florida Towards an Integrated Algal Bloom Forecast System in the Caloosahatchee-Lake Okeechobee-St. Lucie	**Steven Noll** University of Florida Manatees in Florida History and Culture		**Sean King** Suwannee River Water Management District New Methods for Developing Minimum Flows and Levels for Springs in the Suwannee River Basin	**John Mitnik** South Florida Water Management District Past, Present and Future wit the Central and Southern Florida Project	**Ernesto Lasso de la Vega** Lee County Hyacinth Control District Watching Ponds to Unravel Fertilizer Influences on Aquatic Vegetation in Coastal Environments	**Xavier Harrell** Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University Assessing Freshwater Quality Through Nutrient, Metal, and Microbial Indicators
4:50pm	**Discussion**		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
5:30pm - 7:00pm	**Poster Session and Reception** With a judged student poster competition and sponsor networking opportunities [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]						

	Thursday, February 26, 2026
7:30am- 8:30am	**Early Morning Refreshments [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**
8:30am- 10:00am	**Plenary Session** [Rion Ballroom - 3rd Floor] **Introduction and Welcome** **Matt Cohen,** Director, University of Florida Water Institute **Keynote Speaker** **Elizabeth Anderson** *Freshwater Conservation Ecologist, Florida International University* **"Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Collaboration in Water Resources Science"**
10:00am- 10:30am	**Morning Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**

Thursday, February 26, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 10:30am - 12:00pm

Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
Session	34		35	36	37	38	39
Session Title	**Managing Water for Urban Landscapes**		**AI Application in Soil and Water Resources Management in Florida**	**Building Resilience Through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships**	**Innovations in Projects and Modeling Tools to Increase Resilience of Communities and Natural Systems**	**Understanding and Predicting Harmful Algal Blooms**	**Emerging Contaminants in Aquatic Systems**
Moderator/ *Session Organizer	**Eliana Bardi** Alachua County Environmental Protection		***Golmar Golmohammadi** University of Florida	**Darlene Velez** University of Florida	***Ann Shortelle** Bio-Tech Consulting	**Lisa Krimsky** University of Florida	**Amanda Subalusky** University of Florida
10:30am	Introduction		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
10:35am	**Beth Alvi** Audubon Florida Florida's Hidden Water Supply: Reducing Irrigation to Secure a Sustainable Water Future		**Nasser Najibi** University of Florida Spatiotemporal Learning of Clustered Weather Extremes in a Changing Climate	**Megan Brinton** Stetson University The Social Science of Stewardship: Evaluating the Surface to Springs RCPP	**F. Warren McKinnie** Streamline Technologies, Inc. Proactive Resilience: Protecting Communities with Real-Time Flood Forecasting	**Stacy Cecil** St. Johns River Water Management District Drivers of Sustained Algal Blooms in the Indian River Lagoon, FL	**Tracie Baker** University of Florida Contaminants of Emerging Concern and Antimicrobial Resistance in Great Lakes Water and Fish Species
10:50am	**Bernard Cardenas** University of Florida Are Watering Restrictions Effective in Decreasing Irrigation Water Use?		**Haimanote Bayabil** University of Florida Simulating Soil Hydrologic Dynamics Using Conventional and Machine Learning Techniques	**Amy Goodden** Wetland Solutions, Inc. Lake Alice Watershed Management Plan	**Nicola Ianeselli** WGI Inc Digital Twin & AI for Resilience	**Nicholas Chin** Water Institute Identifying the State Dependent Drivers of Florida Red Tide (Karenia Brevis) Dynamics	**Katherine Milla** Florida A&M University Microplastics Transport Within an Interconnected Surface Water-Ground Water Hydrologeologic System
11:05am	**Hollie Greer** Alachua County Alachua County's Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Code: Implications for Statewide Efforts		**Nikolaos Tziolas** University of Florida An Interactive Chat-Map Platform for Rapid, Uncertainty-Aware EO Insights	**Jun Kim** Florida Polytechnic University Sustainable Water-Ecosystem Development Through City-University Partnership	**Tom Frick** St Johns River Water Management District Unique Potential Uses for Real-time Flood Forecasting	**Josh Papacek** St. Johns River Water Management District Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring in the St. Johns River	**Joshua Benjamin** University of Florida Trace Elements in the Mara River: Implications for Water and Ecosystem Health
11:20am	**Megan McKinsey** University of Florida The Impact of Restrictive Irrigation Ordinances on Establishment of Newly Planted Landscape Trees		**Rafael Muñoz-Carpena** University of Florida TEK in Tech: Merging Physics and AI with Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) for Flood Modeling	**Mary Szafraniec** Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) Enhancing Water Quality Through Innovative Canal Restoration–A Multistage Channel Design Pilot Study	**John Lesman** Bio-Tech Consulting Enhancing Resilience of Green Infrastructure with Mitigation Banking	**Syed Usama Imtiaz** Florida State University Self-Supervised Learning (SSL) for Cyanobacterial Blooms Prediction	**Lakshay Dhamania** University of Florida Fluorine-free, Chemically Modular Polymer Adsorbents for Capturing PFOA
11:35am	**Laura Vasquez** University of Florida Landscape Irrigation Retrofits and Water Savings in Miami-Dade County		**Nikolay Bliznyuk** University of Florida Forecasting Monthly Streamflow in West-Central Florida using Statistical Machine Learning	**Monica Wilson** University of Florida Operation TRAP – Using Interceptor Devices for Trash Reduction in Florida's Aquatic Preserves	**Carolina Maran** South Florida Water Management District Innovation in Resiliency: Integrating Green and Gray Critical Flood Infrastructure Projects	**Mitra Nasr Azadani** Florida State University Quantifying Drivers of Cyanobacterial Blooms with Causal Spatiotemporal AI	**Amanda Sills** University of Florida Ecotoxicological Impacts of PFAS Mixtures: Mechanistic Insights from Menidia beryllina
11:50am	**Discussion**		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
12:00pm-1:30pm	**Lunch [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

Thursday, February 26, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm

Room	2335	2340	2355	2365	Auditorium	3315	3320
Session	40		41	42	43	44	45
Session Title	**Innovations in Water Reuse and Treatment**		**Hydrologic Processes and Modeling Innovations**	**Governance Tools for Water Management**	**Advances in Risk Modeling for Resilient Water Systems under Extreme Events**	**Mitigation Strategies and Socio-Ecological Impacts of HABs**	**Aquatic Contaminants Research in Florida and Beyond**
Moderator/ *Session Organizer	**Alan Foley** Jones Edmunds		**Young Gu Her** University of Florida	**Annie Brett** University of Florida	***Nasser Najibi** University of Florida	**Elise Morrison** University of Florida	***Gretchen Lescord** University of Florida
1:30pm	Introduction		Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction	Introduction
1:35pm	**Cristian Cardenas-Lailhacar** University of Florida Optimizing Energy Use in Wastewater Treatment Plants: Compressors Versus Blowers		**Katie Glodzik** University of Florida Forest Management for Water and Carbon: Leaf Area and Groundwater Trends in Florida's Wetlandscapes	**Stacie Greco** Alachua County Local Governments' Uphill Battle to Meet Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPS)	**John Nemenyi** Jones Edmunds & Associates inc. Cedar Key GSI: How A Community Partnership Can Lead to a Greener Future	**Elizabeth Staugler** University of Florida Stakeholder-Driven Innovation During Development of Dinoshield Hab Control Technology: A Case Study	**Emily Kintzele** University of Florida Emerging Contaminants Discovered Across Everglades Matrices: Water, Sediment, and Manatee Feces
1:50pm	**Erich Marzolf** St. Johns River Water Management District Implementation of State Regulation Changes in 2013 Resulted in A Shift of Class B Biosolids (CBBS) L		**Joseph Hughes** INTERA Recent and Future Advancements of the MODFLOW Configurable Multi-Model Hydrologic Simulator	**Kelly Grogan** University of Wyoming Evaluating the Economic Feasibility of Shellfish Aquaculture to Generate Nutrient Credits	**Katherine Serafin** University of Florida Toward Improved Flood-Risk Planning: Hybrid Modeling of Compound Flood Hazards in River Systems	**Hidetoshi Urakawa** Florida Gulf Coast University Efficacy And Ecological Implications of Hydrogen Peroxide for Cyanobacterial Bloom Mitigation	**Celine Lajoie** LAKEWATCH Temporal Effects of DOM Quality on Hg Bioaccumulation Across the Wet Season in a Hypereutrophic Lake
2:05pm	**Abigail Neufarth** Jacobs Intensified Treatment Marsh for Nitrogen Removal in Hurricane Disaster Relief Effort		**Jaehyeon Lee** University of Florida Climatic and Hydrologic Drivers of Concentration-Discharge Relationship Non-Linearity	**Kira Hansen** Kimley-Horn Florida's Crossroads: Building Flexible Environmental Policies for Florida's Communities	**Golmar Golmohammadi** University of Florida Flood Susceptibility Mapping of Florida	**Roberto Koeneke** University of Florida Economic Valuation of Concurrent Freshwater and Coastal Harmful Algal Blooms in Southwest Florida	**Chris Martyniuk** University of Florida Elucidating Toxicity Mechanisms of Perfluorinated Chemicals in the Zebrafish Model
2:20pm	**Nicholas Taylor** UF/IFAS Extension Examining Single Family Residence Reclaimed Water Use in a Changing Florida		**Amelia Sewell** Suwannee River Water Management District Estimating Small CII Water Use Within the Suwannee River Water Management District	**Sadie Hundemer** University of Florida Public Support for New Agricultural Best Management Practices to Protect Florida Water Quality	**Mostafa Rezaali** University of Florida Deep Learning of CONUS Spatial Heatwave Structures Uncovers Distinct Heat Patterns	**Sumon Hossain Rabby** FAMU-FSU Coupling Vertical Distribution of Marine Algal Biomass and Ocean Hydrodynamics	**Thomas Sinkway** University of Florida Defining the Landscape of PFAS in Florida Waterways Using Tampa Bay as a Model
2:35pm	**Yasmeen Saleem** UF/IFAS Growth and Physiological Responses of Southern Highbush Blueberry to Reclaimed Water Irrigation		**Rob De Rooij** University of Florida Unraveling Irrigation Return Flows: How Much of the Water Makes It Back to the Aquifer?	**Lisa Krimsky** University of Florida Navigating Florida House Bill 1379: A Case for Unified Septic System Education	**Rachata Muneepeerakul** University of Florida On Trade-Offs Between Short-Term Resilience and Long-Term Sustainability in Infrastructure Systems	**Bethany Ryder** Florida Gulf Coast University Analyzing H2O2 And Ecological Responses Following the Application of Lake Guard Oxy in Lake O	**Maite De Maria Mulet** Cherokee Nation System Solutions Agricultural and Urban Pesticides in Florida and Florida Manatees
2:50pm	**Discussion**		**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**	**Discussion**
3:00pm-3:30pm	**Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor]**						

	Thursday, February 26, 2026 (continued)
3:30pm- 5:30pm	**Closing Plenary Session** [Rion Ballrom - 3rd Floor] **Presentation of Student Poster Competition Awards** **Closing Panel:** ***Harnessing Data for Florida's Water Future*** ***Panelists:*** **Beth Alvi,** National Audubon Society **Tirusew Asefa**, Tampa Bay Water **Amy Brown**, Suwannee River Water Management District **Sara Davis**, Florida Department of Environmental Protection **Jayantha Obeysekera**, Florida International University **Matthew Ross**, Radical Open Science Syndicate
5:30pm	**Symposium Concludes**