

DETAILED AGENDA

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

Early Morning Refreshments | Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor

7:30am - 8:30am

Check-in for Preregistered Attendees - Pickup Symposium Materials
Onsite registration not available

8:30am - 10:00am

Opening Plenary Session

[Rion Ballroom - 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

"The New Economics of U.S. Water Quality Policy"

Joseph Shapiro, *Associate Professor, Agricultural & Resource Economics Department*, UC Berkeley

Morning Refreshment Break | Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor | 10:00am-10:30am

NOTES

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (continued)

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

	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6	Session 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 & Biogeochemistry	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	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
Introduction 10:30am							
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.	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 Across Wetland Terrestrial-Aquatic Interfaces	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	PANEL: Kellie Keys Florida State University <i>"How to Identify the Expert in the Room"</i> Angela Bradbery University of Florida <i>"Tips and Techniques for Communicating with Nonscientists"</i>	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	Andy Opel Florida State University <i>"Visual Scientific Storytelling"</i> Jason Evans Stetson University <i>"Beyond the Scientific Echo Chamber"</i>	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) Botcher 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	Chad Hanson The Pew Charitable Trusts <i>"Working with Stakeholders on Policy Wins"</i>	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
Discussion 11:50am			Discussion 11:50am				

Lunch [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor] | 12:00pm - 1:30pm

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm

	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 8	Session 9	Session 10	Session 11	Session 12	Session 13	Session 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	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
Introduction 1:30pm							
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 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.	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 University 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	Keeli Carlton Seminole County Florida Edward Millar University of Windsor Tom Mould Rollins College	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	Shannon Carnevale University of Florida Emily Nodine Rollins College	Kevin Grace DB Environmental, Inc. SAV Recovery at Scale: Response of Managed Wetlands to Drawdown and Large Lake to Turbidity Controls	Y. Peter Sheng University of Florida 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 Shaghghi 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
Discussion 2:50pm				Discussion 2:50pm			
Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor] 3:00pm - 3:30pm							

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)

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

	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 15		Session 16	Session 17	Session 18	Session 19	Session 20
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	Nutrient Dynamics and Restoration Strategies	Advancing Fecal Contamination Detection with Tryptophan-Like Fluorescence: Florida and Global Perspectives
Moderator	*Jeffrey Geurink Tampa Bay Water		*Nargiza Ludgate University of Florida	Madison Trowbridge Southwest Florida Water Management District	*Nicole Cortez South Florida Water Management District	Luna Phillips Florida AWRA/ Gunster	*Ansley Tilley EcoStasis
	Introduction		Introduction 10:30am				
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 University 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	Edgar Guerron Orejuela University of South Florida What Are the Chances? A Geospatial Tool for Predicting Nutrient Loading to Florida's Waterbodies	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	David Tomasko Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Development and Implementation of the Pollutant Load Reduction Goal for Sarasota Bay	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	Dan Dai University of Florida Seasonal Patterns in Solute Concentrations in the North Lake Okeechobee Basin	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	Shannon Salvatori St. Johns River Water Management District Internal Phosphorus Recycling in Lake Jesup: A New Focus for Restoration	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	Madeline Sutherland University of Florida St. Lucie Estuary, Where is the Carbon and Nitrogen Coming From?	Alex Johnson Virridy How Low-Cost Continuous Sensor Arrays Create New Monitoring Paradigm for Utilities and Local Governments
	Discussion 11:50am		Discussion 11:50am				

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)							
Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm							
	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 21	Session 22	Session 23	Session 24	Session 25		Session 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		Tracking Change: Monitoring Water Quality and Ecosystem Health
Moderator	*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		Rick Copeland AquiferWatch
	Introduction 1:30pm						Introduction
1:35pm	Lee Hale Hale Innovation Funding the Future of One Water: Leveraging Grants and Strategic Partnerships for Integrated Water Projects	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		Rick Copeland AquiferWatch Nitrate Concentration Declines in Groundwater of the Santa Fe River Basin, Florida (2014 – 2024)
1:50pm	Gary Hubbard City of Winter Haven Building Florida's One Water Future: Integrating Policy, Planning, and Innovation	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 Duffy University of Florida River DNA Long-Read Sequencing: Rapidly Monitor Biodiversity, Wildlife, Pollution and Ecosystem Health
2:05pm	Kassidy King City of Winter Haven Engaging Communities in One Water: Building Public Trust for Integrated Water Solutions	Marianne Vernetson University of Florida Bridging the Civic Gap: Engaging Students in Gulf Communities in Florida's Water Challenges	Jayantha T. Obeyseker 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		Morgan Edwards University of Florida Tracking Water Quality in the Nature Coast Aquatic Preserve
2:20pm	David Rathke Resiliency Florida Florida's One Water Future: Legislative Drivers, Collaboration, and Communication for Integrated Water Management	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) Study		Renee Price University of Florida Vegetation Dynamics and Community Divergence in Central Florida Reference Wetlands
2:35pm	Discussion	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		Patrick Williamson Badger Meter Texas-Sized Resilience: How Galveston's Smart Water Network Endured Hurricane Beryl
		Discussion 2:50pm		Discussion 2:50pm		Discussion 2:50pm	
Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor] 3:00pm-3:30pm							

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 (continued)

Concurrent Sessions — 3:30pm - 5:00pm

	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 27	Session 28	Session 29	Session 30	Session 31	Session 32	Session 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	*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
Introduction 3:30pm							
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:	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 District 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	Steve Seibert Former Pinellas County Commissioner Ed Turanchik Attorney, Former Hillsborough County Commissioner R.Z. "Sandy" Safley Consultant, Former Florida House of Representatives Member	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	Steve Seibert Former Pinellas County Commissioner Ed Turanchik Attorney, Former Hillsborough County Commissioner R.Z. "Sandy" Safley Consultant, Former Florida House of Representatives Member	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	Pete Dunbar Special Counsel - Jones Walker, Former Florida House of Representatives Member	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 University of Florida 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	Sonny Vergara Former Executive Director of the Southwest Florida Water Management District	Sean King Suwannee River Water Management District New Methods for Developing Minimum Flows and Levels for Springs in the Suwannee River Basin	Zulamet Vega-Liriano U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Past, Present, and Future with 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 & Mechanical University Assessing Freshwater Quality Through Nutrient, Metal, and Microbial Indicators
Discussion 4:50pm				Discussion 4:50pm			

Thursday, February 26, 2026 (continued)

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

	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 34		Session 35	Session 36	Session 37	Session 38	Session 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	Eliana Bardi Alachua County Environmental Protection		*Golmar Golmohammadi University of Florida	Darlene Velez University of Florida	*Ann Shortelle Bio-Tech Consulting	Lisa Krinsky University of Florida	Amanda Subalusky University of Florida
	Introduction		Introduction 10:30am				
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 Updated Resilience Modeling: Implementing Digital Twin and Artificial Intelligence	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 Hydrogeologic System
11:05am	Hollie Greer Alachua County EPD 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 <i>Menidia beryllina</i>
	Discussion 11:50am		Discussion 11:50am				

Thursday, February 26, 2026 (continued)							
Concurrent Sessions — 1:30pm - 3:00pm							
	Room 2335	Room 2340	Room 2355	Room 2365	Auditorium	Room 3315	Room 3320
	Session 40		Session 41	Session 42	Session 43	Session 44	Session 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	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
	Introduction		Introduction 1:30pm				
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 EPD 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 The Implications of Biosolids Management in the St. Johns River Watershed		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 Florida 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 University of Florida 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 University of Florida 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 Krinsky University of Florida Navigating Florida House Bill 1379: A Case for Unified Septic System Education	Rachata Munepeerakul 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 Okeechobee	Maite De Maria Mulet Cherokee Nation System Solutions Agricultural and Urban Pesticides in Florida and Florida Manatees
	Discussion 2:50pm		Discussion 2:50pm				
Afternoon Refreshment Break [Grand Ballroom - 2nd Floor] 3:00pm-3:30pm							

Closing Plenary Session

[Rion Ballroom - 3rd Floor]

Presentation of Student Poster Competition Awards

Closing Panel:

“Harnessing Data for Florida’s Water Future”

Moderator:

Matt Cohen, *Director*, University of Florida Water Institute

Panelists:

Beth Alvi, *Director of Policy*, National Audubon Society

Tirusew Asefa, *Manager*, Planning and System Decision Support, Tampa Bay Water

Amy Brown, *Deputy Executive Director of Water Resources*, Suwannee River Water Management District

Sara Davis, *Director of the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency*, Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Brett Goodman, *Executive Director*, Jones Edmunds

Jayantha Obeysekera, *Director of the Sea Level Solutions Center*, Institute of Environment, Florida International University

Symposium Concludes | 5:30pm

3:30pm-5:30pm

NOTES