

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting
PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY

Peace River Facility
Water Quality & Training Center
8998 SW County Road 769, Arcadia, Florida
February 4, 2026

Board Members Present:

Commissioner Ron Cutsinger, Sarasota County, Chairman
Commissioner Joseph Tiseo, Charlotte County, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Elton Langford, DeSoto County
Commissioner Jason Bearden, Manatee County

Staff Present:

Richard Anderson, Executive Director
Doug Manson, General Counsel
Jim Guida, Water Resources & Planning Director
Mike Knowles, Engineering Director
Katie Gilmore, Operations Director
Ann Lee, Finance & Budget Senior Manager
Rachel Kersten, Executive Assistant & Agency Clerk

Others Present:

A list of others present who signed the attendance roster for this meeting is filed with the Authority's permanent records.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Commissioner Tiseo called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Langford offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

HOST COUNTY REMARKS

Authority Executive Director Richard Anderson offered the host remarks and welcomed everyone to the Peace River Facility.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Anderson announced a change to the agenda, a minor update of verbiage to the staff-recommended motion for Regular Item 3 'FDOT Kings Highway Widening Project'.

Motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Cutsinger, to approve the changes to the Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

1. Election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman for 2026

Doug Manson, General Counsel, conducted the election of officers for chairman and vice-chairman and opened the floor for nominations.

Commissioner Langford moved to nominate Commissioner Cutsinger as Chairman and Commissioner Tiseo as Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Manson received the nominations and consent to close nominations. The nominations of Commissioner Cutsinger for Chairman and Commissioner Tiseo for Vice-Chairman were approved unanimously.

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

1. Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement Award

Mr. Anderson announced that for the seventh consecutive year, the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to Peace River Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2024.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approved Minutes of December 3, 2025, Board of Directors' Meeting**
- 2. Approved Year-End Financial Status and Semi-Annual Investment Reports for FY 2025**
- 3. Approved FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Independent Auditors' Report**
- 4. Approved Long-Term Project Financing Update**

Motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Cutsinger, to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Water Supply Conditions Report

Katie Gilmore presented the Water Supply Conditions at the Peace River Facility as of January 15, 2026.

- Water Supply Quantity: Excellent
- Treated Water Quality: Excellent

January Water Demand	33.90 MGD
January River Withdrawals	0.00 MGD
<u>Storage Volume:</u>	
Reservoirs	4.24 BG
ASR	<u>8.30 BG</u>
Total	12.54 BG

2. FY 2027 Budget – Schedule and Considerations

Mr. Anderson presented budget considerations and a preview of potential changes to the approved 2026 budget for the Board's direction in preparing the FY 2027 budget.

3. FDOT Kings Highway Widening Project

Mike Knowles presented this item for the Board’s information and consideration. He explained that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) District One is managing the design and construction of approximately 1.2 miles of Kings Highway / County Road 769 from the Charlotte/DeSoto County line to Southwest Glenadine Avenue.

Mr. Knowles reviewed that the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) study began in 2013 and evaluated widening approximately 2.7 miles of the existing two-lane undivided roadway from South Kingsway Circle in Charlotte County to Peace River Street in DeSoto County to a four-lane divided roadway. Following a public hearing held on November 7, 2019, the PD&E study was completed in March 2021. The primary goal of the project is to improve traffic safety, with secondary goals including support of commercial and economic growth, improved system linkage, and enhanced emergency management and evacuation capabilities.

In 2025, DeSoto County received FDOT funding for the first 1.2-mile segment of the project for Fiscal Year 2027. The project is currently in the design phase. Kisinger Campo & Associates (KCA) is leading the roadway design, and Burgess & Niple, Inc. (B&N) has been retained by FDOT for utility design services. DeSoto County is developing a similar scope and fee with B&N to assess impacts and coordinate relocation of County utility infrastructure within the project limits.

Mr. Knowles stated that the Authority has two water transmission mains within the project corridor: the 24-inch Kings Highway Transmission Main and the 12-inch Lake Suzy Transmission Main. Evaluation of potential impacts and any required relocations of these facilities will need to be coordinated with FDOT and DeSoto County.

Staff recommend that the Board authorize the Executive Director to accept and execute the Utility Design by FDOT Consultant Agreement (UDFCA) and the associated Three-Party Escrow Agreement with FDOT to allow B&N to evaluate impacts to and potential relocation of Authority utility assets in conjunction with DeSoto County utilities.

Motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Tiseo, to accept the Utility Design by FDOT Consultant Agreement (UDFCA) and Three Party Escrow Agreement and authorize the Executive Director to execute both documents for a Not-to-Exceed value of \$139,237.80. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Strategic Plan 2026

Jim Guida presented this item for the Board's information and consideration. He explained that, in accordance with Board policy, the Authority's Strategic Plan is updated every five (5) years. The current Strategic Plan was adopted in February 2021.

Mr. Guida stated that staff has prepared a draft 2026 Strategic Plan for Board review and input. The draft plan was shared with member government professional staff at the January Professional Staff meeting for comment. The Strategic Plan outlines the Authority's mission, goals, and key initiatives that will guide decision-making and resource allocation over the next five-year planning horizon.

Mr. Guida indicated that staff will incorporate additional feedback received from member staff and the Board. A final draft of the 2026 Strategic Plan will be presented for formal Board approval at the April 1, 2026 Board meeting.

This item was presented for discussion and direction. No formal Board action was taken.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S REPORT

1. Phase 2B Pipeline Easement Mediation Update

Mr. Manson provided a status update on the Mediation process for the Najmi property on the Phase 2B Pipeline Project. A mediation hearing was held on January 27th where a settlement was reached with the property owner. Staff will bring back a final cost for board approval at the April Board Meeting following receipt of the final executed judgment by the court.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Letter of Financial Assurance

Mr. Anderson explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) maintains statutory authority to issue Federal Section 404 environmental permits for projects that impact wetlands, rivers, and other Waters of the United States (WOTUS). As part of the Section 404 permit application process, the Authority must demonstrate long-term financial assurance to ensure the success of compensatory wetland mitigation associated with the Peace River Regional Reservoir No. 3 (PR3) Project.

Mr. Anderson stated that, in addition to documentation of the Authority's long-term financing mechanisms,

including bond covenants and annual operating budget information, the ACOE may require a formal Letter of Financial Assurance from the Authority affirming its commitment to the successful implementation and long-term maintenance of the approved wetlands mitigation. He continued that to maintain the project schedule and avoid potential delays in permit issuance, staff is requesting Board consensus to authorize the Chairman to execute the Letter of Financial Assurance, should it be requested prior to the April 1, 2026, Board meeting, with any minor, non-substantive modifications as recommended by the Executive Director.

Board consensus was given to authorize the Chairman to sign the Letter of Financial Assurance, with minor, non-substantive modifications as recommended by the Executive Director, if required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of the PR3 Project Section 404 permit application process.

ROUTINE STATUS REPORTS

There were no Board comments on routine status reports.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

There were no additional comments from Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Authority Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.
Sarasota County Administration (South County)
4000 S. Tamiami Trail
Venice, FL 34293

Future Authority Board Meetings

June 3, 2026 - DeSoto County Administration Building
August 5, 2026 - Charlotte County Administration Center
October 7, 2026 - Manatee County Administration Building
December 2, 2026 - Sarasota County Administration (South County)

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

BOARD APPROVED

APR - 1 2026

**Peace River Manasota
Regional Water Supply Authority**



Commissioner Ron Cutsinger
Chairman