

***PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
June 5, 2026***

**CONSENT AGENDA  
ITEM 1**

**Minutes of April 1, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting**

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**Recommended Action -**

**Motion** to approve minutes of April 1, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting.

The draft minutes of the April 1, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting are provided for approval.

**Attachments:**

Draft minutes of April 1, 2026, Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting  
**PEACE RIVER MANASOTA REGIONAL WATER SUPPLY AUTHORITY**  
Sarasota County Administration (South County)  
R.L. Anderson Administration Building  
4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice, FL 34293  
April 1, 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 Cutsinger called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Commissioner Cutsinger offered the invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**HOST COUNTY REMARKS**

Sarasota County Administrator Jonathan Lewis offered the host remarks and welcomed everyone to Sarasota County.

**CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda to announce.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments made.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. **Approved Minutes of February 4, 2026, Board of Directors’ Meeting**
2. **Approved Resolution 2026-01 ‘Recognition of the Month of April as Water Conservation Month’**
3. **Approved Resolution 2026-02 ‘Recognition of National Drinking Water Week’**
4. **Approved Award Contracts for Purchase of Water Treatment Chemicals**
5. **Approved Phase 2B Interconnect Project – Second Amendment to the Interlocal Agreement**
6. **Approved Phase 2B Charlotte County Easement Agreements**
7. **Approved Phase 2B Najmi Properties, Inc. Stipulated Final Judgment**
8. **Approved HDR Engineering, Inc. Work Order #4 Amendment #3**
9. **Approved Authority Property Insurance Renewal**
10. **Approved Board of Directors Meeting Schedule for CY 2026 (Revised)**
11. **Approved Strategic Plan 2026**

**Motion was made by Commissioner Tiseo, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, 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 March 15, 2026, and reviewed the current drought conditions, response, and management.

- Water Supply Quantity: Stressed
- Treated Water Quality: Good

March Water Demand	29.58 MGD
March River Withdrawals	8.73 MGD

<u>Storage Volume:</u>	
Reservoirs	3.46 BG
ASR	<u>7.40 BG</u>
Total	10.86 BG

Commissioner Cutsinger commended staff for proactively beginning recovery efforts early and asked questions regarding the system’s maximum pumping capacity and operational limitations. Ms. Gilmore explained that the current operating threshold is set to maintain reliability within the well system and prevent well losses due to overuse. Commissioner Cutsinger added that this reinforces the importance of future capacity improvements to enhance operational flexibility and maximize available water supply during high-demand or recovery periods and the need to continue advancing planned infrastructure and system improvements to ensure long-term reliability and resiliency of the regional water supply system.

**2. Draft 2027 Capital Improvements Plan and Capital Needs Assessment**

Mike Knowles presented the Authority’s draft 5-Year CIP and 20-Year CNA document. He explained that this document summarizes the number, type, and timing of water supply, regional transmission, and other capital projects planned over the 20-year planning period pursuant to the Integrated Regional Water Supply Plan 2025 Update. Capital planning drives the planning, design, and construction of significant infrastructure projects forecasted to serve the region’s needs. These projections must be coordinated with financial planning, a selection of engineering consultants, and the acquisition of internal resources to complete these projects by the time they are needed.

There are two schedule horizons in the Authority’s capital planning efforts: the 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP), which includes projects that are relatively certain and well-defined, and the 20-Year Capital Needs Assessment (CNA), which includes the 5-Year CIP and also looks out beyond that period to years 6 – 20 years where projects are less certain and defined.

The 5-Year CIP beginning in FY 2027 through FY 2031 currently includes the following:

Regional Transmission Projects	\$19,896,635	2.9%
Water Supply Projects	\$663,661,027	95.8%
Other Projects	\$9,272,500	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 692,830,162</b>	<b>100%</b>

And the 20-Year CNA, beginning in FY 2027 through FY 2046, includes the following:

Regional Transmission Projects	\$232,394,839	20%
Water Supply Projects	\$931,641,027	78%
Other Projects	\$24,144,250	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,188,180,116</b>	<b>100%</b>

Mr. Knowles stated that capital planning has also identified \$76 million in offsetting cooperative grant funding opportunities for projects within the 5-year CIP projects based upon past generous participation by the Southwest Florida Water Management District, as well as the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Alternative Water Supply Grant) and the State of Florida Appropriations.

### 3. Classification and Pay Plan Update

Mr. Anderson and consultant Rob Williamson of Local Government Consulting, LLC presented the results of the Authority's Salary Survey Market Analysis and Internal Equity Analysis. Staff explained that the Authority's Classification and Pay Plan policy requires a formal compensation study every three to five years, with interim localized salary reviews performed by staff. The most recent formal study was completed in 2023, with annual pay structure adjustments subsequently aligned with the Consumer Price Index.

The presentation reviewed current labor market conditions affecting employee recruitment and retention, including competition for skilled labor, retirements, inflationary pressures, and regional workforce shortages. Staff and the consultant explained that seventeen peer agencies in the Tampa-to-Fort Myers region participated in the salary survey and that the analysis identified several classifications where adjustments were needed to maintain market competitiveness and internal equity.

The consultant recommended an overall 5.6% upward adjustment to the Authority's pay ranges, along with selected pay grade reclassifications. Staff noted that implementation of the revised pay plan would require ten current employees to be adjusted to the minimum of their respective updated pay ranges at a total annual cost of \$16,837.49. The item was presented with a recommendation for Board approval of the revised Classification and Pay Plan.

Commissioner Bearden asked questions regarding how the compensation study accounted for regional cost-of-living differences and comparable agencies used in the analysis. Mr. Williamson explained that the study focused primarily on market competitiveness, recruitment and retention trends, and alignment with similarly situated public-sector organizations rather than relying solely on cost-of-living comparisons.

Commissioner Bearden also asked about future organizational efficiencies and the role of emerging technologies. Mr. Anderson responded that the Authority continually evaluates modernization opportunities and operational efficiencies while maintaining the specialized staffing necessary to support reliable regional water supply operations. Mr. Williamson added that the study also incorporated workforce planning and organizational effectiveness considerations into its recommendations.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Tiseo, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to accept the revised 'Classification and Pay Plan' and adjust the affected current employees to the minimum of their respective new pay range. The motion was approved unanimously.**

### 4. Punta Gorda Water Purchase Request

Richard Anderson presented this item for the Board's consideration. He explained that maintaining regional interconnections in a state of continued readiness is critical to system resiliency, operational flexibility, and emergency water transfer capabilities. The Authority owns and operates two regional interconnects with the City of Punta Gorda, including the Phase 1A Transmission Main, placed into service in October 2012, and the Phase 1 Transmission Main, placed into service in June 2020.

Mr. Anderson reviewed that the operation of the interconnect facilities is governed by the Water Systems Interconnect and Water Transfer Contract between the Authority and the City of Punta Gorda, effective September 3, 2013, as amended. The agreement allows for water exchanges to maintain operational readiness and also allows either party to purchase water when quantities are available.

On March 6, 2026, the City of Punta Gorda submitted a request to purchase water on a temporary basis until completion of the Shell Creek Reverse Osmosis Expansion. The City's water supply projections indicate an annual average day need of 0.23 million gallons per day in FY 2026, increasing to 0.53 million gallons per day in FY 2031. Available Water may be supplied after all Authority customer water supply needs are met and is subject to annual verification of available quantities through the Authority's Redistribution Pool. A review of available Redistribution Pool quantities indicates water is available for purchase by Punta Gorda in FY 2026 and FY 2027.

Staff recommended approval of the City of Punta Gorda's request to purchase water up to the quantities identified in the 5-Year Water Supply Projections table, subject to annual available quantities. No budget action was required.

Commissioner Joe Tiseo asked whether the request was temporary in nature and whether supplying water would affect the Authority's obligations to member governments. Mr. Anderson confirmed that the request was intended as a temporary supply solution and that Authority customer needs would continue to receive priority under the agreement. He also noted that the necessary infrastructure and interconnect facilities are already operational.

Commissioner Cutsinger commented that the request demonstrated the value of regional cooperation, resiliency planning, and interconnected water systems during drought and emergency conditions.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Tiseo, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to approve the request to purchase water by the City of Punta Gorda up to the quantities identified in the 5-Year Water Supply Projections table in Tab B, subject to annual available quantities. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Mr. Anderson provided a discussion regarding the Authority's Interconnect Water Charge in response to the City of Punta Gorda's request and as a preface to the tentative budget presentation. Mr. Anderson reviewed the historical purpose of the interconnect system as a regional reliability and emergency support mechanism and explained that staff has been evaluating the operational, contractual, and financial implications associated with the current charge structure.

Commissioner Tiseo emphasized the importance of protecting the investments made by the Authority's member governments and of ensuring that costs are not unfairly shifted to existing customers. Commissioner Cutsinger noted that the interconnect was originally intended as a redundancy and backup arrangement rather than a traditional wholesale water supply agreement.

Board members expressed support for continued staff evaluation and coordination to ensure we fully understand the operational and financial implications before any formal Board action on the Interconnect Water Charge. Staff indicated they would continue preparing the tentative budget using current assumptions

while additional analysis and discussions continue. If policy direction changes later, we can incorporate those impacts during the budget refinement process.

**TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FY 2027**

**1. Tentative Budget for FY 2027**

Ms. Lee presented the Authority’s Tentative Budget for FY 2027 in the amount of \$368,834,459. The Tentative Budget will be posted on the Authority’s website and distributed for continued review by Authority members, customers, and the public. A public hearing will be scheduled in conjunction with the regular Board meeting on August 5, 2026 at which time the Board will consider adoption of the Final Budget for FY 2027.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bearden, to approve the Tentative Budget for FY 2027 in the amount of \$368,834,459, including updating the Interconnect Water Charge to Option 1. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**2. Resolution 2026-03 ‘Resolution Setting Forth Preliminary Schedules of Rates, Fees and Charges for FY 2027’**

Ms. Lee explained Resolution 2026-03 formalizes the Board’s adoption of the Tentative Budget for FY 2027 and establishes the intent to set rates, fees, and charges based upon the tentative budget as presented. A public hearing is scheduled at which time the Board will consider adoption of the final schedule of rates, fees, and charges for FY 2027 in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Board meeting on August 5, 2026.

**Motion was made by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Tiseo, to approve Resolution 2026-03 ‘Resolution Setting Forth Preliminary Schedules of Rates, Fees and Charges for FY 2027’. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**GENERAL COUNSEL’S REPORT**

Mr. Manson had no additional updates for the Board.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Anderson thanked SWFWMD for their cooperation with the emergency order related to drought conditions. He also announced the retirement of Authority’s Water Resources and Planning Director, Mr. Jim Guida, and thanked him for his many years of service.

**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**

Friday, June 5, 2026 @ 9:30 a.m.

DeSoto County Administration

Commission Chambers, First Floor

201 East Oak Street, Arcadia, FL 34266

**Future Authority Board Meetings**

August 5, 2026 - Charlotte County Administration Center, Port Charlotte, FL

October 9, 2026 - Manatee County Administration Building, Bradenton, FL

December 3, 2026 - Sarasota County Administration Center (North), Sarasota, FL

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

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Commissioner Ron Cutsinger  
Chairman