

COMMISSION

Gwendolyn “Gwen” W. Myers, *Chair*
Harry Cohen, *Vice Chair*
Chris Boles
Donna Cameron Cepeda
Ken Hagan
Christine Miller
Joshua Wostal



Executive Director

Janet D. Lorton

General Counsel

Ricardo Muratti

Meeting time

9:30 a.m.

COMMISSION AGENDA

April 16, 2026

Location

601 E. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, Florida
BOCC Boardroom, County Center, 2nd Floor
See details below for virtual attendance

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, and INVOCATION

2. ROLL CALL

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

4. REMOVAL OF CONSENT ITEM FOR QUESTION, COMMENT, or SEPARATE VOTE

5. RECOGNITIONS and PROCLAMATIONS

- a. Presentation of the 2026 Scholastic Environmental Merit Award to Kohana Pal Basu, Middleton High School, for her project entitled *Computationally Designing Proteins that Bind to Heavy Metals*.
- b. Proclamation declaring May as American Wetlands Month

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - Each speaker is allowed 3 minutes unless the Commission directs differently.

If you wish to provide public comment, please see guidance below or on our website at:
<https://www.epchc.org/about/meetings-agendas>

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Approval of February 19, 2026 EPC Meeting Minutes 2
- b. Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) Budget FY2026..... 6
- c. Legal Case Notification 8
- d. Select Performance Measure Goals for 2026 – First Quarter Update 10

8. PUBLIC HEARING (none)

9. REGULAR AGENDA

- a. USF College of Marine Science PRF Project Presentation 12
- b. Microplastics in Tampa Bay Presentation 13
- c. Community Air Monitoring Network Presentation 14
- d. Permitting Process Feedback Meetings Report 15
- e. Executive Director’s Report

10. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURN

Any person who might wish to appeal any decision made by the EPC regarding any matter considered at the forthcoming public hearing or meeting is hereby advised that they will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose they may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made which will include the testimony and evidence upon which such appeal is to be based.

Anyone who wishes to speak either virtually or in-person during the meeting may do so by completing the online Public Comment Form found at: www.epchc.org/pubcomment. The form is open 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting. Virtual speakers must submit the online public comment form at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. In-person speakers will be able to sign up using the same online form 48 hours prior to arrival or can sign up on-site via our kiosk up until the start of the meeting. Visit the EPC webpage for more details on [agendas and public comment](#). This meeting will also be available LIVE as follows: Spectrum - Channel 637, Frontier - Channel 22, Comcast - Channel 22, PC: <http://www.hcflgov.net/HTVlive>, and iOS: <http://65.49.32.149/iosvideo/ios.htm>.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #7.a.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Approval of February 19, 2026, EPC meeting minutes

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Division: Administration Division

Recommendation: Approve the February 19, 2026, EPC meeting minutes.

Brief Summary: Staff requests the Commission approve the meeting minutes for the Commission meeting held on February 19, 2026.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: Draft copy of the of February 19, 2026, EPC meeting minutes.

Background: None

FEBRUARY 19, 2026 - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

The Environmental Protection Commission (EPC), Hillsborough County, Florida, met in Regular Meeting and Public Hearing, scheduled for Thursday, February 19, at 9:30 a.m., in the Boardroom, Frederick B. Karl County Center, Tampa, Florida, and held virtually.

The following members were present: Chair Gwen Myers and Commissioners Chris Boles, Donna Cameron Cepeda, Harry Cohen, Ken Hagan, Christine Miller, and Joshua Wostal (arrived at 9:33 a.m.).

1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND INVOCATION

▶ Chair Myers called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Cameron Cepeda led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag and gave the invocation.

2. ROLL CALL

▶ Ms. Janet Lorton, EPC Executive Director, used the Consent Agenda vote to confirm attendance in lieu of a formal roll call.

3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

▶ Ms. Lorton stated there were no changes to the agenda.

4. REMOVAL OF CONSENT ITEM FOR QUESTION, COMMENT, OR SEPARATE VOTE

▶ Ms. Lorton indicated there were no items removed from Consent.

5. RECOGNITIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - ▶ **None.**

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - ▶ **None.**

7. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Consent Agenda Items

- a. Approval of October 16, 2025, EPC Meeting Minutes
- b. Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) Budget Fiscal Year 2026
- c. Legal Case Notification
- d. Select Performance Measure Goals 2025 - Fourth Quarter Update
- e. Amendments to PRF Grant Agreement #23-02 Agriculture Pesticide Collection

▶ Chair Myers sought a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. **Commissioner**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Cohen so moved, seconded by Commissioner Boles, and carried six to zero.
(Commissioner Wostal had not arrived.)

8. PUBLIC HEARING - **None.**

9. REGULAR AGENDA

a. Wetlands Division Informational Presentation

▶ Ms. Kimberly Tapley, EPC, delivered a presentation, and ▶ responded to Commissioner Boles' questions regarding mitigation bank capacity and Senate Bill (SB) 492's structure. Commissioner Miller wondered whether a lack of available mitigation credits would affect potential development. ▶ Chair Myers sought a motion to accept the report. **Commissioner Boles so moved, seconded by Commissioner Miller, and carried seven to zero.**

b. Presentation of EPC's new Public Data Portal

▶ Mr. Christopher Boland, EPC, elaborated on the portal. ▶ Chair Myers called for a motion to receive the report. **Commissioner Cohen so moved, seconded by Commissioner Wostal, and carried seven to zero.** Ms. Lorton made laudatory remarks.

c. Legislative Update on Proposed Environmental and Administrative Bills

▶ Attorney Beth Le, EPC, gave the update. ▶ Commissioner Wostal proposed a future discussion on adding opposition for House Bill (HB) 673/SB 938 to the legislative agenda and inquired about the status of HB 437/SB 770, which Attorney Le and Senior Attorney Andrew Zodrow, EPC, addressed.

d. Executive Director's Report

▶ Ms. Lorton expounded on the item.

10. DISCUSSION OF FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

▶ Commissioner Wostal asked Ms. Lorton to work with external stakeholders on EPC design review and permitting process improvements, and report back at either the April 2026 or the June 2026 EPC meetings.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

ADJOURN

▶ There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

READ AND APPROVED: _____
CHAIR

ATTEST:
VICTOR CRIST, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

ms

DRAFT



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #7.b.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Pollution Recovery Fund Budget

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Division: Administration Division

Recommendation: Informational Report Only

Brief Summary: The EPC staff provides a periodic summary of the funds allocated and available in the Pollution Recovery Fund.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: PRF Budget Spreadsheet

Background: The EPC staff provides a periodic summary of the funds allocated and available in the Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF). The PRF funds are generated by monetary judgments and civil settlements collected by the EPC staff. The funds are then allocated by the Commission for restoration, education, monitoring, the Artificial Reef Program, and other approved uses.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION
OF HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY
FY 26 POLLUTION RECOVERY FUND
10/1/2025 through 3/31/2026**

REVENUE		EXPENDITURES		RESERVES		NET PRF
Beginning Balance	\$ 2,604,380	Artificial Reef	\$ 65,940	Minimum Balance	\$ 120,000	
Interest	\$ 40,322	Open Projects	\$ 788,344	Est. FY 27 Budget	\$ 65,940	
Deposits	\$ 216,543			Asbestos Removal	\$ 5,000	
Total	\$ 2,861,245	Total	\$ 854,284	Total	\$ 190,940	\$ 1,816,021

PROJECT	Project Amount	Project Balance
FY22 Projects		
Heckman Petro. Assess. 10131.102063.531001.5370.1297	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
FY24 Projects		
ERI Palma Ceia Spring Restoration 10131.102063.582990.5370.1367	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 33,860.92
KHB Hills River & Coastal Cleanup 10131.102063.582990.5370.1368	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 7,264.04
	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 41,124.96
FY25 Projects		
H.C. Ext. Svc. - Pesticide Collection 10131.102063.581990.5370.1361	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
USF Water Qual. Old Tampa Bay 10131.102063.581990.5370.1369	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
USF Chem. Impacts on McKay Bay 10131.102063.581990.5370.1370	\$ 99,340.00	\$ 99,340.00
UF PFAS in Tampa Bay Waters 10131.102063.581990.5370.1371	\$ 75,643.00	\$ 72,491.82
H.C. Ext Svc. - P/F Education 10131.102063.581990.5370.1372	\$ 10,285.00	\$ 10,285.00
USF Mapping of Sulphur Springs 10131.102063.581990.5370.1373	\$ 61,305.00	\$ 61,305.00
USF MST Tool for H.C. Waterways 10131.102063.581990.5370.1374	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 71,804.86
ERI Learning Gate School Wetland Rest. 10131.102063.582990.5370.1375	\$ 78,000.00	\$ 78,000.00
	\$ 529,573.00	\$ 523,226.68



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #7.c.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Legal Case Notification

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Division: Legal Department

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: This notification is to assist Commissioners in identifying potential conflicts of interest that may exist and that may require disclosure prior to taking action in a quasi-judicial administrative matter. It is also intended to assist Commissioners in avoiding discussing matters with parties during administrative or civil litigation.

Financial Impact: Standard litigation costs are included in the Legal Department's operating budget, but any individual case may require a future budget amendment.

List of Attachments: None

Background: The EPC Legal Department primarily handles litigation in administrative and civil forums. A list of new cases the EPC opened since the previous Commission meeting is provided below. Occasionally, a new case or cases, may be disposed of in between the prior and current EPC meetings, yet this list will still be provided for continuity and consistency.

Administrative appeals (a/k/a administrative hearings, petitions, challenges, or Section 9 Appeals) involve challenges to agency actions such as permit application decisions or administrative enforcement actions (e.g. – citation or consent order). These proceedings are conducted before an appointed hearing officer who enters a recommended order after an evidentiary hearing. After the hearing officer issues the recommendation, the administrative appeal is transferred back to the Commission to render a final order. Acting in this quasi-judicial capacity, the Commission and all parties are subject to ex-parte communication restrictions. After receipt of an appeal or a request for an extension of time to file an appeal, the Commission should avoid discussing those cases. The chart below generically refers to these cases as “Administrative Appeal,” but it could also be an extension of time to file an appeal.

The purpose of providing notice of new cases is to assist Commissioners in identifying persons or entities that may present a conflict of interest. Certain conflicts may require the Commission to recuse themselves from voting on a final order. Please note, the Legal Department provides notice of sufficient

appeals to the Commission via e-mail to assist in the conflict check process and as a reminder to limit communications; therefore, the Commission may have already received prior notification of the administrative case(s) listed below.

If the EPC becomes a party in civil litigation either through an approved Request for Authority to Initiate Litigation or by receipt of a lawsuit, the case will also be listed below. Any attorneys representing opposing party(ies) must communicate through the EPC counsel and should not contact the Commission directly. It is also recommended that the Commissioners avoid discussing litigation prior to consulting with EPC counsel.

Please note, some cases included in the table below may have closed or reached resolution prior to this Commission meeting. Please direct any calls or e-mails concerning administrative or civil litigation to the EPC Legal Department.

NEW LITIGATION CASES OPENED SINCE AGENDA PUBLICATION FOR THE FEBRUARY 19, 2026 EPC COMMISSION MEETING:

EPC Case No.	Date Opened	Case Type	Case Style	Division
26-EPC-002	2/24/2026	Administrative	Mark and Edelyn Rosenblatt v. Joanna Stroz and EPC	Wetlands



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #7.d.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Select Performance Measure Goals for 2026 – First Quarter Update

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Division: Executive Director Report

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: As part of the EPC staff's strategic planning, the Agency measures key activities and set goals for 2026. These are tabulated and periodically presented to the Commission in the consent agenda.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: Table Titled 2026 Goals

Background: The Agency measures performance for all five of its core functions. These core functions include permitting, compliance assurance, citizen support & outreach, enforcement, and ambient air & water quality monitoring. As part of the Agency's annual evaluation, staff sets goals for select activities and reports them periodically to the Commission. This is an integral part of the continuous improvement required by the Agency's strategic planning.

2026 Goals

Core Function	Measure	Pre-Sterling Year (2009)	2024	2025	2026 YTD (1 st Qtr)	2026 Goal
Permitting	Average Time to Issue an Intent for State Construction Permits (days)	57	34	23	28	Less Than or Equal to 30 days
	Average Time to Issue an Intent for Tampa Port Authority Permits (days)	56	71	68	38	Less Than or Equal to 60 days
	Average Time EPC Permits were In-House (days)	21	25	26	22	Less Than or Equal to 30 days
Compliance	Timely Resolution of Lower-Level Non-Compliance Cases	92%	99%	100%	100%	Greater Than or Equal to 95%
Environmental Complaints	Timely Initiation of Investigation	99% (in 5 days)	99% (in 3 days)	100% (in 3 days)	100% (in 3 days)	Greater Than or Equal to 95% (in 3 Days)
Enforcement	Timely Initiation of Enforcement	73%	98%	100%	100%	Greater Than or Equal to 90%



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #9.a.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: USF College of Marine Science Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) Project Presentation

Agenda Section: Regular Agenda

Division: Water Division

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: In 2025, the University of South Florida College of Marine Sciences received a PRF grant to evaluate the concentrations of chemicals of emerging concern in sediments and recreationally caught fishes and invertebrates in McKay Bay and its tributary, the Palm River. Dr. Steve Murawski, will present the findings of the study to the Commission.

Financial Impact: None

List of Attachments: None

Background: On October 16, 2025, the Commission approved the expenditure of Pollution Recovery Fund (PRF) monies for the University of South Florida College of Marine Sciences project entitled *Impacts of Chemicals of Emerging Concern (CECs) on Fishes and Sediments of McKay Bay*.

The University of South Florida College of Marine Science is currently conducting a multi-year assessment of contaminants in the Tampa Bay regions. This project augments this effort by expanding sampling to McKay Bay and the Palm River to better characterize and assess potential chemical threats from the consumption of recreationally caught fish and shellfish.

Dr. Steve Murawski, St. Petersburg Downtown Partnership Peter R. Betzer Endowed Chair and retired chief scientist from NOAA, will present the findings of the study to the Commission.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #9.b.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Microplastics in Tampa Bay Presentation

Agenda Section: Regular Agenda

Division: Water Division

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: Lyndsey “Zee” Grossmann, PhD student, College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, will provide a presentation on the state of microplastics in Tampa Bay.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: None

Background: Microplastics are tiny plastic particles found in oceans, rivers, lakes, and even drinking water, posing environmental and potential health risks. Lyndsey “Zee” Grossmann, PhD student, College of Marine Science at the University of South Florida, will present her current research into microplastics. This presentation will focus on what microplastics are, why they are a problem, how they are being studied in Tampa Bay, the results of a recent study, and plans for future research in this area.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #9.c.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Community Air Monitoring Network

Agenda Section: Regular Agenda

Division: Air Division

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: This presentation will give an overview of the Community Air Monitoring Network. This Network is a collaboration with the Hillsborough County Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and the University of South Florida (USF).

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: None

Background: EPC operates a regulatory network of air monitors under contract with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). Communities are often interested in air quality data in areas other than where the regulatory monitors are located. This collaborative project focused on selecting and utilizing low cost sensors to provide data to the community along traffic related corridors. This informational presentation will give an overview of the Community Air Monitoring Network (CAMN), it's formation, partners, monitoring sites, and data collected.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMISSION

AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Agenda Item #9.d.

Date of EPC Meeting: April 16, 2026

Subject: Permitting Process Feedback Meetings Report

Agenda Section: Regular Agenda

Division: All EPC Divisions

Recommendation: Informational Report

Brief Summary: EPC personnel conducted two meetings with stakeholders to obtain feedback on the current permitting process. The meetings were constructive and included both positive comments and suggestions for improvement.

Financial Impact: No Financial Impact

List of Attachments: None

Background: The Permitting Process Feedback meetings were initiated following a request from Commissioner Wostal at the February 2026 EPC Meeting. The request was for EPC to evaluate and improve our current design review and permitting processes using input from our external stakeholders, specifically consultants and engineers.