

F S T E D

Florida Seaport Transportation and
Economic Development Council

Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC)

**Tuesday, August 26, 2025
2:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m. EST**

**Zota Beach Resort, Longboat Key, FL
*Zara North Room***

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 293 359 666 952 1

Passcode: By6HR6fy

TAB 1
Call to Order, Welcome



Florida Seaport Transportation and
Economic Development Council

**Seaport Environmental Management Committee
AGENDA**

Tuesday, August 26, 2025

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Zara North Room

Zota Beach Resort, Long Boat Key, FL

1. Call to Order, Welcome
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of the March 26, 2025, SEMC Meeting Minutes
4. Florida Ports Council Update
5. Agency Updates
 - a. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)
 - b. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)
 - c. FloridaCommerce
 - d. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works and Regulatory Divisions
 - e. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)
 - f. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)
6. Partner Updates
 - a. AAPA
 - b. Florida Ocean Alliance
 - c. Florida Recycling Partnership
7. Open Discussion
 - a. FDEP Stormwater Rule
 - b. Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, ESA, etc.)
 - c. Other Issues
8. Adjourn

TAB 2
Roll Call

F S T E D

Florida Seaport Transportation and
Economic Development Council

Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC)

Roll Call

Tuesday, August 26, 2025 | 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Representative	Organization	Designee
Captain John Murray	Port Canaveral	Bob Musser
Joseph Morris	Port Everglades	
Scott Moore	Port Fernandina	
Joshua Revord (Chair)	Port of Fort Pierce	
Eric Green	JAXPORT	Nick Primrose
Steven McAlearney	Port of Key West	
Carlos Buqueras	SeaPort Manatee	Daniel Fitz-Patrick
Hydi Webb	PortMiami	Becky Hope
Michael Meekins	Port of Palm Beach	
Alex King	Port Panama City	
Lance Scott	Port of Pensacola	Thomas Coggin
Sam Sullivan	Port Putnam	
David Wirth	Port St. Pete	
Guerry Magidson	Port of Port St. Joe	
Paul Anderson	Port Tampa Bay	Chris Cooley
Lainie Edwards Alex Reed Gregory Garis	Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)	
Lauren Rand Jerry Scott	Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)	
Jason Mahon	FloridaCommerce	Ava Dillard Niki Welge
Shawn Zinszer Angela Dunn Gretchen Ehlinger Jamie Howard	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
Janet Zimmerman	Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)	
Josh Cucinella	Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)	
Jeff Littlejohn	Adams and Reese, LLP	

TAB 3
Approval of the March 26, 2025, SEMC
Meeting Minutes

F S T E D

Florida Seaport Transportation and Economic Development Council

Seaport Environmental Management Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

9:00 a.m. EST

Cypress Room, Hotel Indigo, Tallahassee, FL

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome:** The Seaport Environmental Management Committee (SEMC) meeting was called to order at approximately 9:10 a.m. EST by Chairman Joshua Revord, Port Director of the Port of Fort Pierce. Chairman Revord welcomed attendees and noted that today's meeting would include updates from key agencies, environmental discussions, and discussions on regulatory changes impacting port operations.
- 2. Roll Call:** Chairman Revord recognized Emily Fisher, Vice President of Programs & Government Relations at the Florida Ports Council, to call the roll. A quorum was present. Members and other guests present were as follows:

Bob Musser, Port Canaveral
Joseph Morris, Port Everglades
Erik Neugaard, Port Everglades
David Anderton, Port Everglades
Joshua Revord (Chair), Port of Fort Pierce
Nick Primrose, JAXPORT
Joey Greive, JAXPORT
Dan Fitz-Patrick, SeaPort Manatee
Becky Hope, PortMiami
Fred Wong, PortMiami
Michael Meekins, Port of Palm Beach
Alex King, Port Panama City
John Miller, Port Panama City
Damien Bressler, Port Panama City
Thomas Coggin, Port of Pensacola
Sam Sullivan, Port Putnam
Chris Cooley, Port Tampa Bay
Mike Poole, Port Tampa Bay
Steve McAlearney, Port of Key West
Steven Baham, Port Citrus
Lainie Edwards, FDEP
Gregory Garis, FDEP
Lauren Rand, FDOT

Jason Mahon, FloridaCommerce
Ava Dillard, FloridaCommerce
Niki Welge, FloridaCommerce
Angela Dunn, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Shawn Zinszer, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Gretchen Ehlinger, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
Janet Zimmerman, FIND
Josh Cucinella, FWC
Jeff Littlejohn, Adams and Reese, LLP
Patrick Gillespie, Adams and Reese, LLP
Emily Fisher, Florida Ports Council
Mike Rubin, Florida Ports Council
Edie Ousley, Yellow Finch Strategies
Gretchen Winters, Florida Harbor Pilots
Ben Borgie, Florida Harbor Pilots
Madeline Jones, HNTB
Jimmy McDonald, HNTB
Fred Aeuschauer, Lewis, Longman, & Walker
Dustin Rinehart, CMA CGM America
Lenore Alpert, Florida Ocean Alliance
Keyna Cory, Florida Recycling Foundation
Cissy Proctor, LSN Partners
Jacob Bortz, Exodiso

- 3. Approval of the August 28, 2024, SEMC Meeting Minutes:** Chairman Revord asked for any comments or revisions to the August 28, 2024, meeting minutes. After no discussion, Sam Sullivan

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(Port Putnam) made a motion to approve the minutes as stands; then seconded by Becky Hope (PortMiami) and passed unanimously.

4. **Florida Ports Council Update:** Chairman Revord recognized Mike Rubin, President and CEO of the Florida Ports Council, to give a brief update on legislative and regulatory challenges facing Florida seaports. Rubin stated that the legislative session is in its fourth week; key budget discussions are underway, notably regarding potential amendments affecting transportation infrastructure and the Strategic Intermodal System. Rubin acknowledged concern expressed by stakeholders (including transportation builders) about potential impacts on ongoing projects. Additional, ongoing monitoring of transportation legislation; further updates anticipated as the legislative session progresses.
5. **Agency Updates:**
 - a. **Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP):** Chairman Revord recognized both Gregory Garis, Program Administrator in the Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection, and Lainie Edwards, Deputy Director in the Office of Resilience & Coastal Protection, to give the update for FDEP. They addressed the following updates:
 - **New leadership and staffing updates:**
 - Alexis Lambert appointed as new Secretary (since December).
 - Mara Gambineri named Chief of Staff.
 - John Truett returns as Deputy Secretary for Regulatory.
 - Lawrence Glenn was appointed as head of the Division of Environmental Assessment and Restoration.
 - **Resilient Florida Program:** Recently announced resilience grants for 2025; detailed information available online.
 - **Rulemaking:** Updated Resilience Rule (62-S8) for consistency with statutory requirements; workshops completed.
 - **Coastal Mapping Initiative:**
 - Statewide project underway for comprehensive coastal data using LiDAR and sonar.
 - Data collection ongoing; deliverables anticipated by August 2026, with public portal launch in 2027.
 - **Coral Conservation Aquatic Preserve:** No immediate impact on permitting or construction methods; awaiting potential future rulemaking on anti-degradation standards.
 - **Beach and Dune Recovery:**
 - Completed assessments after Hurricanes Debbie, Helene, Milton.
 - Significant funding (\$246 million) is allocated due to increasing dredge mobilization costs.
 - Highlighted ongoing challenges with dredge availability, noting recent lack of competitive bids.

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- **Consistency in Mitigation Policy:**
 - Active discussions aimed at standardizing district office approaches to surface water filling mitigation.
 - Encouraged early and frequent pre-application meetings for clarity.
- b. **Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):** Chairman Revord recognized Lauren Rand, Seaport Manager, to give the update for FDOT. Rand discussed the efforts to integrate seaport projects into the ETDM system continue, despite initial complexity. Rand said volunteers from Seaport Manatee, Tampa Bay, Everglades, and Miami submitted projects; encountered complications with MARAD review processes and that additional seaport volunteers and projects required to further test and refine ETDM integration process. Rand emphasized ongoing importance of streamlined project review processes, particularly NEPA, to facilitate permitting.
- c. **FloridaCommerce:** Chairman Revord recognized Jason Mahon, Deputy Director, to give the update for FloridaCommerce. Mahon emphasized FloridaCommerce's role in supporting ports through economic and business development. Mahon offered assistance in addressing barriers or concerns related to commerce and business operations and detailed efforts ongoing to streamline reviews of funding sources like Intermodal Logistics Center funding and Fed funding.
- d. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works and Regulatory Divisions:** Chairman Revord recognized Angie Dunn, Chief, Planning & Policy Division at USACE Jacksonville, to give an update for the U.S. Army Corps. Dunn gave updates on major projects: **Port Everglades:** Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement and Endangered Species Act coordination continue; updating total project cost. **Miami Harbor Deepening:** Extended timeline requested for completion; vertical team review ongoing. **Tampa Harbor:** Authorized for deepening; entering design phase. Dunn also detailed the mitigation efforts detailed, notably coral impacts and the newly listed Queen Conch; coordination ongoing with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- e. **Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND):** Chairman Revord recognized Janet Zimmerman, Executive Director, to give the update for FIND. Zimmerman mentioned the current dredging and sediment management projects highlighted, including Peanut Island habitat creation. Zimmerman noted challenges with NEPA compliance and delays from required consultations, notably with newly listed Queen Conch, impacting timelines significantly.
- f. **Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC):** Chairman Revord recognized Josh Cucinella, Land Use Planning Program Administrator, to give the update for FWC. Cucinella gave an update on wildlife-related regulatory actions (Rice's Whale, Right Whale, Sea Turtles, Queen Conch, Manatees). The Rice's Whale and Right Whale seasonal speed rule proposals were withdrawn by federal regulators. Cucinella highlighted emerging lighting issues related to turtle nesting at certain ports, emphasizing importance of mitigation and communication with FWC for ongoing issues. Additionally, ongoing coordination to streamline wildlife-related permitting issues, citing the recent Port Canaveral expansion coordination as an example.

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6. **Partner Updates:**
 - a. **AAPA:** No update, as no attendees were present.
 - b. **Florida Ocean Alliance:** Chairman Revord recognized Lenore Alpert, Executive Director of the Florida Ocean Alliance, to give an update. Alpert mentioned their upcoming Florida Oceans Day on April 1 which features exhibits and public engagement at Capitol Plaza, Tallahassee; additionally with a legislative reception planned, encouraging broad attendance from stakeholders.
 - c. **Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation:** Chairman Revord recognized Keyna Cory, Executive Director of the Florida Recycling Partnership Foundation, to give an update. Cory highlighted success of recent business recycling webinar and future recycling educational initiatives. Cory addressed ongoing legislative focus on battery recycling due to fire hazards and environmental concerns. Cory mentioned their upcoming webinar planned addressing public recycling away from home, targeting business improvement in recycling practices.

7. **Guest Speaker – Dr. Bill Precht “Ten Years Later: The Port Miami Deep Dredge Project Reveals Valuable Lessons Learned to Help Guide Future Projects”** Chairman Revord recognized Dr. Bill Precht, Director of Coastal and Marine Sciences at Bio-Tech Consulting. Dr. Precht provided detailed insights from extensive monitoring and analysis following the Port Miami dredging. He clarified misconceptions about sediment impacts, turbidity sources (Miami River discharge vs. dredging activities), and the stony coral tissue loss disease impacts on regional coral populations. He also highlighted data-driven analysis, emphasizing wave actions as primary drivers of sediment deposition rather than dredging operations alone. Additionally, he noted regulatory challenges, advocating for clear scientific basis in future project assessments to avoid misconceptions influencing future policy and regulatory decisions.

8. **Open Discussion:** Chairman Revord recognized Jeff Littlejohn, Senior Policy Advisory with Adams and Reese and environmental consultant to the Florida Ports Council, to lead an open discussion on the following:
 - a. **Rice’s Whale and Right Whale Speed Rule Update:** Littlejohn confirmed withdrawal of federal seasonal speed rule proposals, relieving immediate regulatory concerns for ports.
 - b. **FDEP Stormwater Rule:** Littlejohn detailed that new stormwater regulations become fully effective December 2025; encouraged early application submissions to avoid delays and increased regulatory burdens.
 - c. **Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, etc.):** Littlejohn discussed fluctuating federal policy landscape, noting significant changes in the definition of Waters of the United States (WOTUS). He detailed potential implications for Florida ports regarding jurisdictional waters; emphasized monitoring ongoing policy developments closely. He updated members on current and forthcoming federal actions regarding NEPA implementation and regulatory changes, highlighting the need for continued engagement.
 - d. **Other Issues:** No other issues were discussed.

9. **Adjourn:** Chairman Revord opened the floor for discussion; hearing none, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

TAB 4
Florida Ports Council Update

TAB 5

Agency Updates

- a. Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP)**
- b. Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT)**
- c. FloridaCommerce**
- d. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Civil Works and
Regulatory Divisions**
- e. Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND)**
- f. Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)**

TAB 6
Partner Updates

- a. AAPA**
- b. Florida Ocean Alliance**
- c. Florida Recycling Partnership**

Florida Ocean Alliance

LEADERSHIP MEETING & LUNCHEON

The Nexus Between Florida's Ocean Health and Economic Prosperity

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2025
11:00AM - 3:00PM
CORAL RIDGE YACHT CLUB, FT LAUDERDALE



SCAN FOR DETAILS

Registration Deadline: Oct 22, 2025 www.floridaoceanalliance.org/2025-fall-leadership-luncheon

Convening thought leaders, policymakers, industry experts, and advocates to explore innovative solutions for Florida's coastal challenges and opportunities. Speakers include:



Glenn Wiltshire

FOA President
Deputy Port Director
Port Everglades



John Englander

Founding Director
The Rising Seas Institute



Colin Polsky, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President
Broward Campuses
Florida Atlantic University
Office of Ocean Economy



Becky Prado

Coastal Resilience Lead
Moffatt & Nichol



Charles Colgan, Ph.D.

Director of Research
Center for the Blue Economy



Danielle Irwin

Senior Director
Cummins Cederburg



Susan Zellers

Program Director
Ocean Exchange



The Nexus Between Florida's Ocean Health and Economic Prosperity Sponsorship Opportunities

Florida's ocean and coastal ecosystems are not only vital to our environment but also to our economy, supporting industries from tourism to technology. Recognizing this, the [Florida Ocean Alliance](#) has been **at the forefront of uniting leaders across sectors to champion sustainable ocean practices.**

This **November 5, 2025**, we are proud to host **The Nexus Between Florida's Ocean Health and Economic Prosperity at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale**. This pivotal event will convene policymakers, industry experts, academics, and advocates to explore innovative solutions for Florida's coastal challenges and opportunities.

We invite you to join us as a sponsor for this significant gathering. Your support will:

- **Elevate Your Brand:** Gain visibility among key stakeholders committed to Florida's oceanic future.
- **Demonstrate Leadership:** Showcase your commitment to sustainable practices and economic growth.
- **Foster Connections:** Engage with a network of professionals dedicated to marine and coastal advancement.

Sponsorship opportunities include event recognition, complimentary tickets, and exclusive networking sessions.

By accepting this invitation, you're helping to shape Florida's future as one where economic prosperity, environmental resilience, and cultural heritage flourish.

We look forward to partnering with you to make the 2025 luncheon and panel discussion a resounding success, highlighting the pivotal role of Florida's ocean economy in our state's future.

To sponsor this event:

Pay by credit card: www.ticketstripe.com/FOA-Leadership-Meeting-2025

To pay by check and avoid processing fees, email Laura Stayshich at:
laura.stayshich.foa@gmail.com for an invoice.

Sponsorship Level	Benefits	Commitment
Partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition as the Partner Sponsor in opening comments • Opportunity to deliver opening remarks at the event • Prominent display of banner or sign and exhibit at the event • Recognition as the Partner Sponsor on press releases, event invitations, emails & social media, registration webpage, and event program • Logo and company profile featured in quarterly e-newsletter • Reserved VIP table and (10) tickets 	\$5,000
Visionary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition on banner or sign and exhibit at the event • Prominent logo and recognition on event invitations, emails & social media, registration webpage, and event program • Content submission in quarterly e-newsletter • Reserved VIP table and (10) tickets 	\$2,500
Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition and banner or sign and exhibit at the event • Prominent logo on event invitation, emails & social media, and event registration webpage, and event program • (6) tickets 	\$1,000
Advocate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banner or sign or tabletop exhibit at the event • Recognition at the event, logo on event registration webpage, and event program • (4) tickets 	\$750
Leader/Mentor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the professional development of future marine science and industry leaders • Recognition at the event, logo on event registration webpage, and event program • (4) event tickets for Marine Science graduate students 	\$750
Table Sponsor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Logo or name on a table at the reception • Recognition at the event, logo on event registration webpage, and event program • (2) tickets 	\$500

All the above ticket holders will receive access to contacts who have opted in to share their information from the event.

TAB 7

Open Discussion

- a. FDEP Stormwater Rule**
- b. Federal Updates (WOTUS, NEPA, ESA, etc.)**
- c. Other Issues**

TAB 8
Adjourn