

# **WATER RESOURCES ACCOUNTABILITY AND COLLABORATION "WRAC" PUBLIC FORUM**



**December 3, 2019  
Paula Cobb, General Counsel**

# WRAC Charter Approved in July 2019

## PUBLIC FORUM CHARTER

### Chapter 152 - PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA RECURRING PUBLIC FORUM CHARTER

#### Sec. 152-1. - Creation.

The South Florida Water Management District ("SFWMD") Governing Board hereby delegates to the Executive Director the authority to create a recurring Public Forum to encourage meaningful public participation in identifying efficient and effective means of implementing the District's mission. The Public Forum is a non-voting group established for information-gathering and fact-finding only. The Public Forum is not delegated, by form or function, any decision-making or advisory authority. The Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District exclusively retains all decision-making authority related to the tasks of the Public Forum.

(Res. No. 2019-0717, § 3, 7-11-2019)

#### Sec. 152-2. - Purpose.

The Public Forum shall serve as an information-gathering and fact-finding body supporting the Executive Director and as a forum for improving public participation in water resource issues affecting south Florida by:

- (a) Ensuring broad public participation, engagement, and discussion on issues impacting water resources in the greater south Florida ecosystem;
- (b) Gathering information related to the effects of continued population growth, development, and agriculture on south Florida's natural resources; and
- (c) Gathering information related to the need to restore, preserve, and protect the greater south Florida ecosystem while providing for other water-related needs of the region, including water supply and flood protection.

(Res. No. 2019-0717, § 3, 7-11-2019)

#### Sec. 152-3. - Tasks.

The Public Forum shall carry out the following tasks at the direction of the Executive Director for the Governing Board:

- (a) Serve as a public forum to identify efficient and effective means for implementing Governor DeSantis' "Achieving More Now For Florida's Environment" Executive Order.
- (b) Serve as a public forum for coordinating information on the status of the numerous efforts under way to study, restore, manage, protect, and preserve south Florida's water resources.
- (c) Serve as a public forum for consensus building among stakeholder interests on a variety of water resource issues, projects and/or programs.
- (d) Gather information for the Executive Director's consideration for enhancing coordination in the approaches being taken to studying, restoring, managing, preserving, and protecting south Florida's water resources



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## WRAC Public Forum is:

- A fact-finding public forum supporting the Executive Director.
- A fact-finding public forum with public participants selected by the Executive Director.
- A public forum consisting of designated participants from stakeholder groups, where a diversity of perspectives are heard and respected.
- An opportunity for the public to provide comment to the WRAC public forum members and executive staff at SFWMD.
- A public forum to facilitate public discussion, participation and comment on critical water management issues with information, facts and diverse perspectives.

## WRAC Public Forum is not:

- An advisory body providing recommendations to the Governing Board.
- An advisory body with members selected by the Governing Board.
- An advisory body to which the Governing Board has delegated decision-making authority.
- An advisory body with authority to vote.
- An advisory body where members are restricted from communicating with each other.

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## Considerations

### Forum Does:

- Gather facts and relevant information for discussion.
- Provide varied perspectives.
- Serve as a public forum for improving public participation in water resource issues.
- Allow for discussion about water resource issues with any member of the WRAC Public Forum group, other stakeholders, and the public before, during, and after meetings.

### Forum Does Not:

- Vote.
- Eliminate options from consideration.
- Provide recommendations or advice to the Governing Board.

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### Facilitating Public Participation for the WRAC Public Forum

All WRAC public forums will:

- be publicly noticed;
- have posted Topics of Discussion;
- provide opportunity for general public comment during the public forum;
- be webcast when feasible;
- have posted video;
- have posted summaries following the public forum.



QUESTIONS?