



FWEA WEST COAST CHAPTER



Florida Water
Environment
Association

WEST
COAST
CHAPTER

www.fwea.org

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER

25

Message from Chair

Adriell Shrikissoon, PE, DBIA, ENV SP - *Freese and Nichols Inc.*



What a start to the year! Our West Coast Chapter has had a busy first quarter—full of great events, lots of planning, familiar faces and new connections that remind us why this community is so special. On behalf of the Florida Water Environment Association West Coast Chapter (FWEA WCC) Steering Committee, thank you for your continued support as we dive into the 2025–2026 fiscal year. From our quarterly luncheons at Columbia, to cheering on the Rowdies in St. Pete, to rolling the dice at Casino Night in support of Engineers Without Borders—we’ve blended learning, networking, and fun in true WCC fashion. **Here’s to building on this momentum and making the rest of the year just as impactful and enjoyable!**

At the Columbia Restaurant, WCC welcomed **Dr. Viraj deSilva** for a presentation on Florida’s new potable reuse rules and SB 64 requirements. Dr. deSilva shared updates to Chapters 62-610 and 62-565, F.A.C., and highlighted case studies from 10 Florida utilities showcasing innovative reuse efforts. The session emphasized safe reclaimed water standards and the 2032 deadline for eliminating surface water discharge.

On August 5th, Engineers Without Borders hosted a lively Casino Night at Coppertail Brewing Company, **raising \$2,730 to help complete two water supply projects** in Guatemala and Nepal. On June 25th, WCC members gathered at Al Lang Stadium to celebrate the Tampa Bay Rowdies’ 50th Anniversary with a 3–1 win over Indy Eleven. Despite stormy weather, the evening was filled with community spirit and networking. **A makeup game is scheduled for September 20th** for those who missed out!

As we move through the rest of the fiscal year, the water and environmental industry is set for big strides forward. From advancing potable reuse and tackling PFAS treatment, to growing green infrastructure and boosting resiliency planning—Florida utilities and professionals are leading the way with innovation. Expect more collaboration, fresh regulatory updates, and community-driven solutions that will continue to shape the future of water in our region. **Stay engaged—because the best is yet to come!**

if you’re looking to get more involved with FWEA WCC, now’s the perfect time. Reach out to me or any member of our steering committee—we’d love to have you join us. Whether you’re bringing new ideas, energy, or simply a passion for our industry, your voice matters. **Together, we’ll keep building this vibrant, dynamic community and make an even greater impact in the year ahead.**

Our chapter is on a roll—let’s keep raising the bar and shaping the future of water. Join us at the next FWEA WCC gathering and be part of the momentum! **Let’s make waves Together - see you at the next event!** 🌊

Sincerely,

Adriell Shrikissoon

FWEA WCC Chair (2025-2026)

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THANK YOU **SPONSORS**

A collage of logos for various engineering and construction firms, including AECOM, Airvac, ARCADIS, ARDURRA, AtkinsRéalis, BLACK & VEATCH, Brown and Caldwell, CAROLLO, CHA, CROM, FRIESE NICHOLS, HASKELL, Hazen, HDR, Hyatt SURVEY, JDS, JonesEdmunds, Kiewit, Kimley-Horn, McKIM & CREED, Mead & Hunt, MOTT MACDONALD, ODYSSEY, PCL CONSTRUCTION, PLUMMER, Q.C. Beach & Assoc., Inc., SUNDT, SURVTECH SOLUTIONS, TETRA TECH, VALERIN, V&A consulting engineers, WADE TRIM, webber, WRIGHT-PIERCE, and GRISSOM SMITH.

RECENT EVENTS

June 5, 2025: Quarterly Luncheon 1



At the Spring Quarterly Luncheon, the FWEA WCC gathered at the Columbia Restaurant to hear Dr. Viraj deSilva present on Florida's new potable reuse rules and SB 64 requirements. Dr. deSilva is the wastewater treatment director at SCS Engineers in Tampa and is a national PFAS expert, enthusiastic about water reuse in Florida.

This presentation overviewed the Chapter 62-610, F.A.C. updates and the new Chapter 62-565, F.A.C. requirements. These rules also establish potable reuse as optional, not mandatory, and set the treatment/disinfection requirements. The purpose of the potable reuse rules is to ensure consistent and safe, highly treated reclaimed water, with established standards, monitoring protocols, and public health safeguards. Additionally, the SB 64 timeline was visited, touching on the January 1, 2032, target for eliminating wastewater discharge to surface water.

Case studies from ten Florida utilities were discussed, covering their indirect (IPR) and direct (DPR) potable reuse efforts:

1. Palm Beach County Utilities Department – Green Cay Wetlands IPR expansion
2. Polk County/Southwest Florida Water Management District – Cherry Hill DPR Pilot
3. City of Altamonte Springs – pureALTA DPR Pilot
4. City of Tampa/Tamp Bay Water – PURE (Purify Usable Resources) DPR/IPR Study
5. Plant City Utilities – Discharge elimination and IPR implementation
6. City of Green Cove Springs Utilities – Discharge elimination and beneficial wet weather discharge
7. City of Panama City Beach Utilities – Conservation park for direct ecological benefit
8. Miami-Dade County Water and Sewer Department - Discharge elimination and beneficial reuse
9. JEA – Expansion of reclaimed water, IPR, and deep well injection
10. Clay County Utility Authority – Project Quench DPR Demonstration Facility



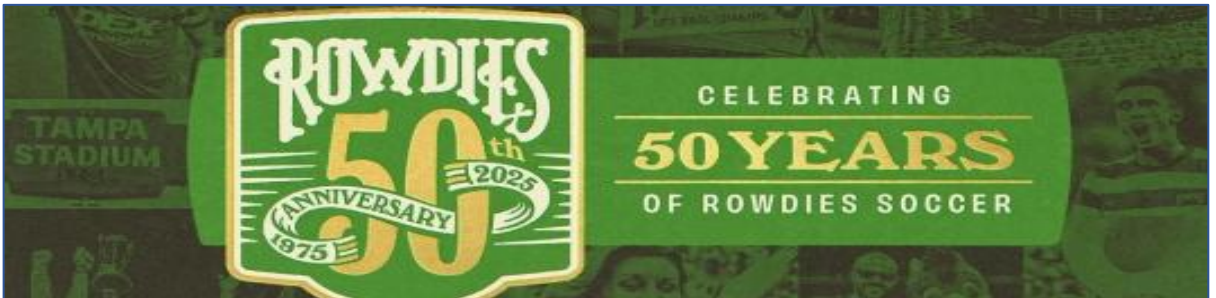
Dr. Veraj deSilva explains the Florida Potable Reuse Rule updates.



FWEA WCC members smile with a full brain and stomach!

RECENT EVENTS

June 25, 2025: Rowdies Game



On Wednesday, June 25, 2025, the FWEA WCC cheered on the Tampa Bay Rowdies as they battled the Indy Eleven at the Al Lang Stadium. The energy was electric as the WCC joined in celebrating the Rowdies' 50th Anniversary. The Rowdies delivered a stunning 3-1 defeat over the Eleven, adding another proud moment for the West Coast region.

The evening was full of laughter, lively conversations, and a strong sense of community. Members and friends gathered to build new connections and strengthen lasting ones. Through casual, meaningful networking, the WCC continued to foster professional relationships while supporting our local community.

Braving storms to cheer on our local team reflects our engineering community's dedication to the West Coast region and ability to have fun! A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make the night memorable! For those who could not attend or want to see the Rowdies play again, **a makeup game is scheduled for September 20th – check the FWEA WCC calendar and register!**



Highlights from the Game!

RECENT EVENTS

August 5, 2025: Engineers Without Borders Casino Night Fundraiser



By Jamie Leonard and Daniel Vaca

On August 5th, engineers, scientists, philanthropists, friends, and all of the above gathered at the upstairs private room of the Coppertail Brewing Company (thank you for donating the space!) to enjoy a not-so-quiet Tuesday evening of Las Vegas style gaming and a diverse range of locally crafted microbrews at this year's Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Casino Night Fundraiser.

Professionally trained casino dealers greeted guests behind genuine roulette, craps, three-card poker and blackjack tables as attendees augmented their antes, where a loss was greeted with cheers rather than jeers as the "house" take represented not defeat, but a win for Engineers Without Borders.

Event proceeds contribute funds enabling the Florida Professional Chapter of EWB to perform current and ongoing water supply projects taking place in Sololá, Guatemala and Khabari, Nepal.

The Guatemala project is in construction currently with work that includes repairs to the water storage tank, construction of a pipeline for the water distribution system, and building a small pump station.

In Nepal, the project is currently on the brink of starting construction on a deep well. A temporary storage tank, watering station and chlorination will be included with the first phase of the project as the design is developed for the water distribution system.

Roughly 50 people were in attendance throughout the evening, with a total of \$2,730 raised to support the EWB projects, inclusive of \$2,200 contributed by event sponsorships.

To learn more about each project, and how you could volunteer further, visit each project page online:

- Guatemala – ewb-fl.org/guatemalaproject
- Nepal - ewb-fl.org/nepalproject



RECENT EVENTS

Special Report: US Water Week



WEF Young Professional Scholarship Recipient, Isaac Washington, Attends US Water Week!

The nexus between policy, advocacy, and how we manage our water is not always as clear as a glass of drinking water.

Water professionals, policymakers, students, and the public must stay updated on scientific knowledge along with the impact of our choices on the environment around us as innovation, policies, and societal needs shift.

There is no argument that water is an essential need for life, health, and business. But who manages it, how we ensure quality, and who pays for it — are the focus of ongoing discussions. What's refreshing is that clean, accessible water for all crosses party lines and unifies people from different walks of life.

In April, I attended US Water Week in Washington, D.C. as a WEF Young Professional Scholarship recipient and senior Civil Engineering student at the University of South Florida. Alongside Kristiana Dragash, Megan Ross, and Zachary Loeb — seasoned industry professionals in water infrastructure and operations — we met with congressional offices to advocate for PFAS generator accountability, labeling of non-flushable wipes, low-income water assistance programs, and tax-exempt municipal bond funding. We also visited a few offices impromptu, excited to share our passion for water.

I stepped from the classroom to Capitol Hill, soaking in the drops and splashes of strategy and candor it takes to advocate for water. And yes, the cherry blossoms in D.C. were in full bloom too.

June 2025 - Submitted by Isaac Washington



Above: Isaac pauses for a selfie among the excitement!



US Water Week attendees pose for a group photo.

EVENTS

Q2

SECOND QUARTERLY
LUNCHEON

FDEP UPDATES:
- MAP DIRECT
- POWER OUTAGE
CONTINGENCY PLAN
- COLLECTION SYSTEM
ACTION PLAN

SUMMER QUARTERLY LUNCHEON

Date: 08/21/2025

Time: 11:30 – 1:00pm

Location: The Columbia Restaurant

An engaging session with our local FDEP representatives – 1.0 PDH offered.

Registration Link: [FWEA WCC Summer Quarterly Luncheon](#)



FANTASY FOOTBALL
DRAFT PARTY



FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT PARTY

Date: 08/21/2025

Time: 5:00pm – 6:00pm (Pre-Draft); 6:00 – 8:00pm (Draft)

Location: FNI Office, 1000 N Ashley Dr, Suite 200

A fun and competitive event for football enjoyers!

Registration Link: [FWEA WCC Fantasy Football Draft](#)



Tampa Bay Women of Water

WOMAN OF WATER

Date: 08/28/2025

Time: 4:30pm to 8:00pm

Location: Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay

Panel discussion with representatives from Hillsborough, Tampa, Pinellas, Sarasota, Tampa Bay Water, Peace River and Manatee County

Registration Link: [FWEA WCC WoW](#)



FWEA & TAMPA BAY RAYS
SOCIAL EVENT

Rays Game

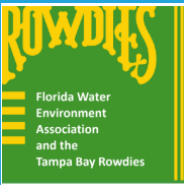
Date: 09/04/2025

Time: 6:00pm to 10:00pm

Location: George M. Steinbrenner Field

Take me out to the ball game - food and drinks included (including beer and wine)

Registration Link: [FWEA WCC Rays Game](#)



Free Rowdies Make-up game

Date: 09/20/2025

Time: 7:00pm to 10:00pm

Location: Al Lang Stadium

Some braved the weather, other couldn't make it – either way, come on out to the make-up game!

Registration Link: Coming soon



SAVE THE DATE!

1

SUMMER QUARTERLY LUNCHEON
8/21/25

4

TAMPA BAY RAYS GAME **09/4/25**

2

FANTASY FOOTLBALL DRAFT **8/21/25**

5

ROWDIES MAKE-UP GAME **09/20/25**

3

WOMEN IN WATER **8/28/25**

6

ANNUAL SPORTING CLAYS **02/27/26**

THANK YOU
TO OUR 2025-2026

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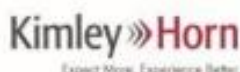
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