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WEST COAST CHAPTER



Florida Water
Environment
Association

WEST
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CHAPTER

NEWSLETTER

Spring

26

Message from Past Chair

Adriell Shrikissoon, PE, DBIA, ENV SP



As I wrap up my final newsletter update, I want to begin on a note of appreciation and excitement for the future of our chapter. First and foremost, congratulations to Samer Alkhatib on stepping into the role of Chair of the FWEA WCC. His leadership and vision will undoubtedly guide the organization to new heights. I'd also like to extend congratulations to the entire incoming board as they take on the responsibility of shaping the chapter's future. To all the new volunteers joining our efforts—welcome! Your time, energy, and dedication are what keep this organization thriving.

I'm honored to share that I was asked to serve on the FWEA State Board as a Director at Large. In this role, I'll be acting as a liaison between the West Coast Chapter and the Public Communications & Outreach Committee (PCOC), helping strengthen the connection between our regional work and statewide initiatives. I'm grateful for the opportunity to represent our chapter and look forward to contributing in a broader capacity while continuing to support the great work happening here locally.

Over the past months, we've had an incredible lineup of events that highlight both the importance of our industry and the strength of our community. Our recent luncheon with Hillsborough County was a standout, offering valuable insight into how artificial intelligence is being integrated into the water sector. We also had the opportunity to engage with the next generation during the STEM fair, where many of you volunteered your time to judge projects, mentor students, and inspire young minds to consider careers in engineering and environmental stewardship.

Our annual clay shoot was another great success—always a favorite event that brings together camaraderie, friendly competition, and support for our programs. We also had the chance to host in a plant tour at the Dunnellon facility, which provided a hands-on look at operations and sparked meaningful conversations among attendees. And, of course, there were lighter moments as well—yes, even some pickleball made its way into the mix!

Beyond these events, I want to recognize the impactful work being done through initiatives like HOPS and Engineers Without Borders, whose efforts continue to make a difference in communities near and far. We also hosted one of our most successful roundtable discussions to date, with outstanding panelists, moderators, and engagement from attendees—truly highlighting the strength and collaboration within our network.

As I close this chapter, I want to sincerely thank each of you for your involvement and dedication. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such an incredible group, and I'm excited to see the Continued growth and success ahead. The future is bright, and I know this chapter will keep building on its momentum in amazing ways.

Sincerely,

Adriell Shrikissoon,

FWEA WCC / PCOC Director-At-Large (6)

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2025/2026 STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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RECENT EVENTS

February 5, 2026: Quarterly Luncheon



The final luncheon of the 25/26 FWEA fiscal year brought together an exciting group of technology-minded individuals to hear Hillsborough County present on how AI and Digital Twins are being used to optimize planning and operations. Presentations discussed integrating AI into customer service lines to improve response times and accuracy, applying AI to join water and sewer projects into synergistic community-based initiatives that consider near-term impacts and long-term investment, and developing Digital Twins to model utility operations in real time while incorporating data to enable smarter, faster responses. As always, the Columbia offered a delicious meal to fuel our many minds during thoughtful discussion.

We look forward to continuing to learn about the innovative efforts taking place on the Florida West Coast!



RECENT EVENTS

February 18, 2026: Hillsborough County STEM Fair



Our team hosted an interactive table where students learned firsthand about water and wastewater treatment—sparking great questions and meaningful conversations about sustainability and public health. In addition, FWEA WCC volunteers served as judges, supporting students as they showcased their creativity, research, and problem-solving skills.

This year, we were also excited to recognize two outstanding students with the FWEA WCC Next-Gen Sustainability Innovator Award which included a scholarship. The winners were selected based on projects that align with FWEA’s vision of “a clean and sustainable water environment for Florida’s future generations”.



RECENT EVENTS

February 27, 2026: 11th Annual Clay Shoot Tournament



This year's FWEA West Coast Chapter 11th Annual Clay Shoot Tournament brought together an energetic group of contractors, consultants, and clients for a day of friendly competition and great company. Shooters of all experience levels hit the FishHawk Sporting Clays course to test their aim and break some clays. Beyond the shooting, the event offered a great opportunity to strengthen relationships within the FWEA community, reconnect with familiar faces, and welcome new ones.

A sincere thank you goes out to our event sponsors and volunteers, and congratulations to the Jones Edmunds team for taking home the win. Whether folks left with a raffle prize or simply enjoyed the camaraderie, everyone helped make this event a memorable one. We're already excited to build on next year's shoot and hope to see you there!



RECENT EVENTS

March 25, 2026: YP Plant Tour at William E. Dunn Advanced Water Reclamation Facility



On Wednesday, March 25, 2026, the FWEA West Coast Chapter Young Professionals (YP) hosted an engaging wastewater plant tour at the William E. Dunn Advanced Water Reclamation Facility in Palm Harbor. The afternoon event brought together YPs from across the region for a behind-the-scenes look at advanced wastewater treatment processes and facility operations in Pinellas County.

Participants toured the facility and gained firsthand insight into treatment system components, operational considerations, and the role reclaimed water plays in sustainable utility management. The guided experience fostered thoughtful discussion, professional learning, and meaningful interaction among attendees.

Following the tour, the group continued networking during a happy hour at Local Brewing Company, where participants enjoyed drinks, food, and casual conversation. The combination of technical learning and social connection highlighted the value of FWEA WCC YP events in supporting professional growth beyond the workplace. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the event a success. We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming FWEA WCC YP event.



RECENT EVENTS

April 3, 2026: USF Water Chats



The FWEA WCC and USF Student Chapter of FWEA held the third annual USF WaterChats event at the University of South Florida's College of Engineering Hall of Flags on April 4th, providing a unique opportunity for students to engage with industry professionals from both the public and private sector in a laid back and casual, conversational environment. The low-stakes nature of the WaterChats event fostered a friendly forum for students of various disciplines to discover the roles they can play in the industry. Water industry veterans showed their support in full force by embracing the opportunity to engage and inspire the industry professionals of tomorrow. The WaterChats event continues to showcase the value of establishing and maintaining a professional network to support the cultivation of a fruitful career in the water industry.

Evening Graduate Courses in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering at USF

This fall, USF is offering some interesting grad level Environmental & Water Resources Engineering courses at a convenient time for working professionals. This is a great opportunity, whether you are interested in pursuing a graduate degree or taking a few classes. Fall 2026 evening courses include: Biological Principles in Environmental Engineering, ENVISION Sustainable Communities, Introduction to Data Science, Water Resources Sustainability, Vadose Zone Hydrology and Hydrologic Models. To sign up for courses as a non-degree seeking student, go to this website. Additional information about graduate programs in Civil & Environmental Engineering can be found [here](#) or contact Dr. Sarina Ergas (sergas@usf.edu).



RECENT EVENTS

April 10, 2026: FWEA Circular Water Annual Roundtable



This April, the WCC gathered at the JW Marriott in downtown Tampa to collaborate on infrastructure resiliency and the circular water economy. A panel of eight circular water leaders shared their strategies and insights regarding local resource recovery and reuse efforts. Topics covered included the current implementation, future goals, and existing challenges to water reuse, biosolids, emerging contaminants, resource security, and public communication. Following the panel, the session broke into small groups to dig deeper into the barriers, strategies, and shared approaches to incorporating circular water programs. After an insightful Q&A, the workshop transitioned into an entertaining happy hour at the Beacon overlooking the Hillsborough River and Tampa skyline. Equipped with new knowledge and ideas on sustainably taking aging infrastructure, water reliability, and public perceptions, the WCC reconvened at the Florida Water Resource Convention a few weeks later to reflect and develop actionable items. The FWEA WCC looks forward to continued conversation on resiliency and circular water!



RECENT EVENTS

April 21, 2026: EWB-FL and FWEA Helping with Hops



The Helping with Hops event, hosted by Engineers Without Borders Florida Professional Chapter (EWB-FL) in collaboration with FWEA, was held on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at Coppertail Brewing Co. in Tampa, FL. The event brought together industry professionals, vendors, and community members for an evening of networking, dinner, drinks, and raffle prizes, all in support of EWB's international water initiatives.

With strong attendance and support from sponsors across the engineering community, the event successfully raised approximately \$12,000, which will directly fund water supply projects in Guatemala and Nepal. These projects aim to improve access to reliable and safe water systems for underserved communities.

The success of the event highlights the continued commitment of the local engineering community to global humanitarian efforts and infrastructure development. For more information on how to get involved please email claes.westring@mottmac.com and osullivanpo@cdmsmith.com.



RECENT EVENTS

May, 21 2026: FWEA/DBIA/FSAWWA Pickleball Social



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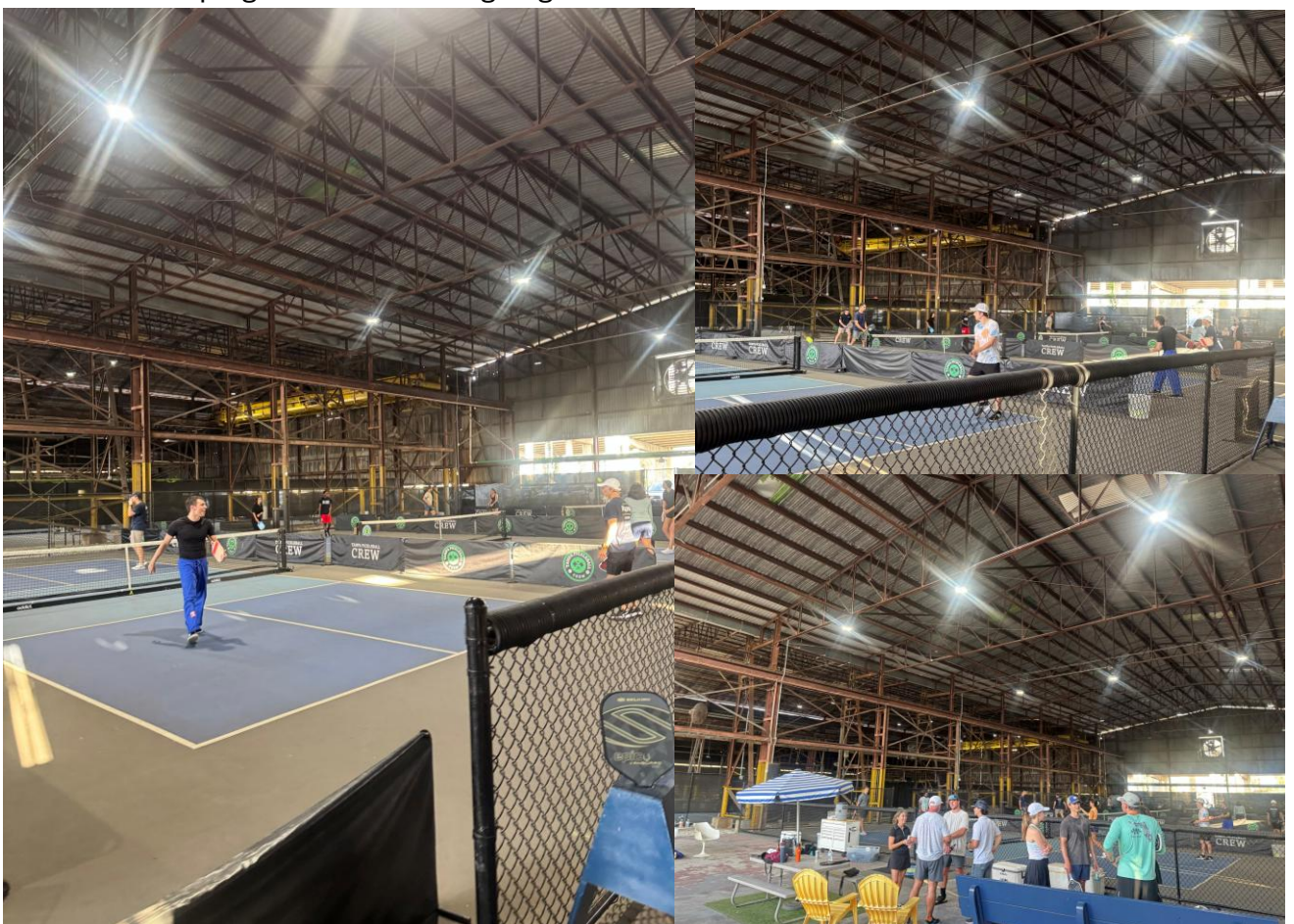
American Water Works Association

The FWEA/DBIA/FSAWWA Young Professionals hosted a well-attended Pickleball Social Event at Tampa Pickleball Crew on May 21, 2026. With four courts reserved and approximately 40 attendees, the event provided an energetic and engaging environment where young professionals, ranging from seasoned players to first-time paddlers, could step outside the traditional workplace and connect in a relaxed setting.

Attendees enjoyed a lively atmosphere filled with matches, laughter, and plenty of team spirit. The format encouraged casual play and friendly competition so everyone could get involved, rotate partners, and build new connections across the water industry.

Although the Florida weather brought plenty of warmth, it ultimately made for a perfect spring evening to be outdoors and active. Between matches, conversations continued off the court accompanied by refreshments, reinforcing the strong sense of community within the YP group.

A big thank you goes out to Tampa Pickleball Crew and everyone who attended and helped make the event so enjoyable, as well as the organizers and volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly. We look forward to continuing to grow events like this and keeping the momentum going!



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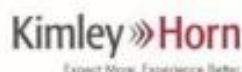
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