



# Florida Legislative Session Recap Webinar

March 19, 2026  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Eastern)

[www.florida-stormwater.org](http://www.florida-stormwater.org)

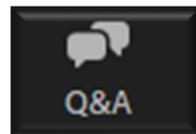


- **Technical Issues**

Shut down, open your reminder email and reconnect

- **Questions**

Type questions in the Q&A Box in the webinar toolbar



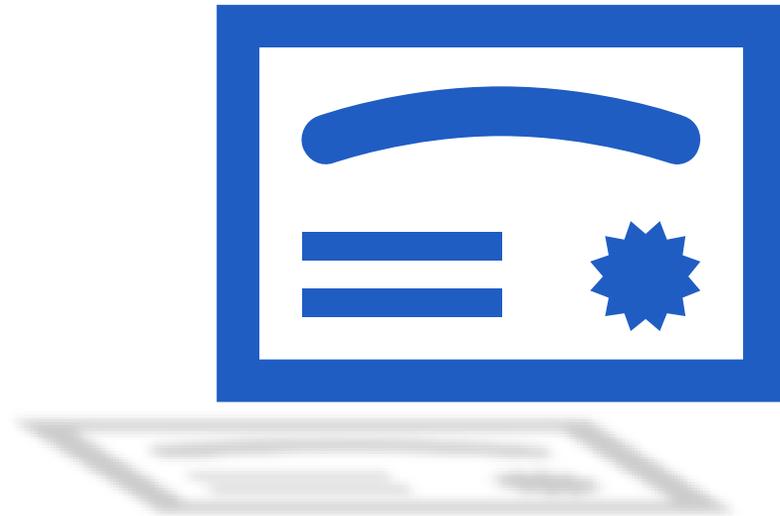
- **Presentation and Recording**

[florida-stormwater.org/webinars](https://florida-stormwater.org/webinars)



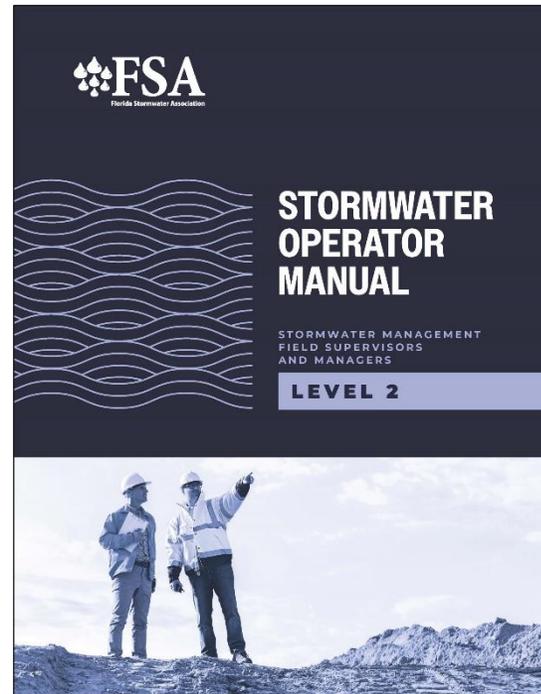
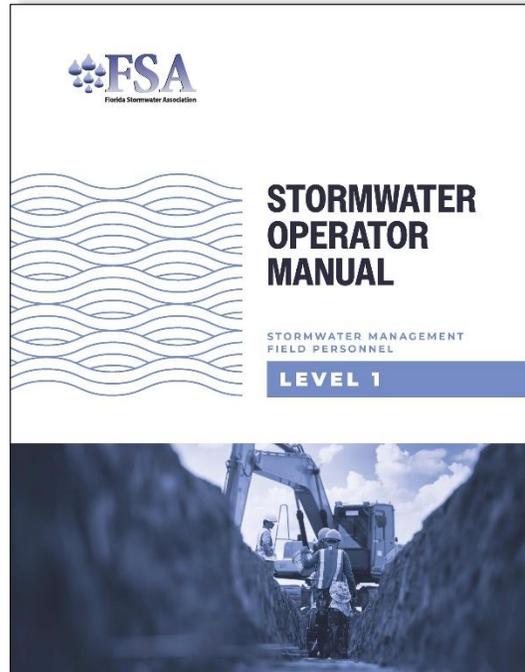
## Continuing Education

- ✓ Registered attendee
- ✓ Login and view the live one-hour event





## Stormwater Operator Certification Classes



*The Original Industry Standard  
for Florida Stormwater  
Practitioners!*

[florida-stormwater.org/training](https://florida-stormwater.org/training)

**We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Sunseeker!**

 **FSA** 2026 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
Florida Stormwater Association

***RISING TO  
THE CHALLENGE:***  
Navigating Stormwater  
Change ***Together***

**June 17-19, 2026** | Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor, FL

**June 17-19, 2026** | Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor, FL

[florida-stormwater.org/conference](https://florida-stormwater.org/conference)



*OneWaterFL.com*



**Florida Based. Regionally Skilled.**



**PARSONS**



**APPLIED  
SCIENCES**

*“As we join Parsons, we’re stepping into a future where our impact can scale up both nationally and globally. Together, we’ll bring our expertise to a broader audience, offer our clients even greater resources, open up exciting new opportunities for our people, and help our communities meet the infrastructure challenges ahead.”*



*We also remain fully committed to supporting the Florida Stormwater Association with Parsons' more extensive resources. I'm incredibly proud of what we've built — and even more energized by what's next.”*



*OneWaterFL.com*





Diana Ferguson  
Lobbyist

Florida Stormwater Association  
[dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com](mailto:dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com)



Kevin Coyne  
Regulatory Affairs

Florida Stormwater Association  
[kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com](mailto:kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com)



# Florida Legislative Session Recap Webinar

March 19, 2026  
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. (Eastern)

[www.florida-stormwater.org](http://www.florida-stormwater.org)



## Today's Overview

- 2026 Session Status/Review.
- Focus on *Water-Related Legislation* of interest to local stormwater programs.
- What's Next in 2026/2027.

# FSA Weekly Priority Issues



[www.florida-stormwater.org/legislative](http://www.florida-stormwater.org/legislative)



Florida Stormwater Association  
Priority Issues – March 13, 2026

Detailed information on the below and other bills may be found on the FSA [Legislative Page](#).

**Water Management/Land and Water Management (SB 718/HB 479) – Oppose (FAILED)**

Preempts local regulation of water resources and wetlands; SB 718 broadly preempts water-related environmental regulation, HB 479 amended focus on preemption on wetland/upland buffer restrictions.

**Standards for Storm Water Systems (SB 558/HB 239) – Oppose (FAILED)**

Bills require all new stormwater systems to comply with FDOT standards and require independent final inspections by qualified third parties. Bills supersede all local stormwater standards.

**Industries and Professional Activities (HB 607) – Oppose (FAILED)**

Bill reduces or eliminates certain continuing and post-licensure education requirements across multiple professions, including engineers, and transfers licensing to DBPR, dissolving current engineering board.

**Landscape Irrigation (SB 508/HB 611) – Monitor (FAILED)**

Bills create statewide standards and restrictions for landscape irrigation systems, including design requirements, watering schedules, licensing, and prohibitions on inefficient practices.

**Nature-based Solutions for Improving Coastal Resilience (SB 302/HB 1035) – Monitor (PASSED)**

Bills create statewide rules and permits for nature-based coastal resilience projects and require a feasibility study on their effectiveness in reducing flood risk.

**Golf Courses/Golf Course Best Management Practices (SB 544/HB 495) – Monitor (FAILED)**

Bills direct a type two transfer of the Golf Course BMPs Certification program, including all powers, duties, and funds from FDEP to FDACS.

**Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters (SB 840/HB 1465) – Monitor (FAILED)**

Bills modify the 2025 SB 180 Emergencies bill framework by narrowing applicability to disaster impacted areas and redefining limits on post-hurricane local land use regulations and preemptions.

**Land Use Regulations (SB 218/HB 217) – Monitor (FAILED)**

Defines “impacted local government” to include counties designated for federal disaster assistance. Inhibits governments from imposing new land use restrictions and enforcement processes in disaster-impacted areas.

**Land Use and Development Regulations (SB 208/HB 399) – Monitor (PASSED)**

Limits local government development fees and compatibility determinations for residential projects and directs a study on urban development boundaries.

**Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force (SB 1386) – Monitor (FAILED)**

Bill provides additional nutrient reduction requirements for BMAP plans and requires owners of certain OSTDS systems to have the systems periodically inspected in an FDEP inspection program.



## Thoughts Prior to 2026 Session...

- Stormwater Rule exemptions, local government preemptions, funding.
- November election.
- Wetlands/404 Program.
- Stormwater Rule.
- Property Taxes.

*\*Like 2025, FSA did not expect FDEP bills being submitted this session...we were wrong...*



## General Background for 2026 Session

- Influence of November 2026 election.
- Continuance of the “House Divided”.
- Federal policy influence on state policies.
- Property taxes, property taxes, property taxes.
- “Glitch” bill for 2025 SB 180 Emergencies Bill (?)
- What stormwater related bill would we get this year...





## 2026 Session

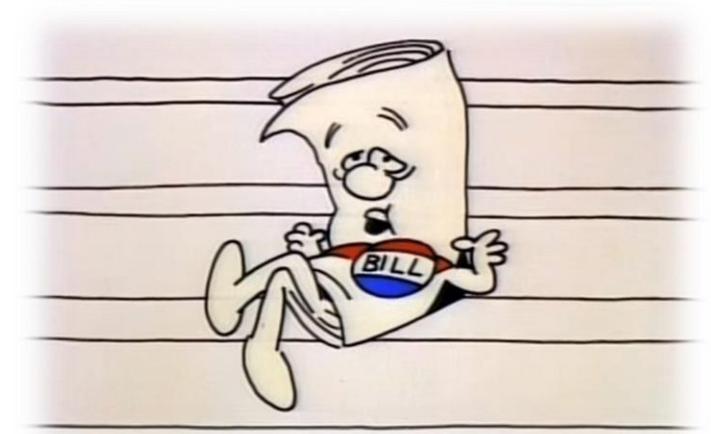
- Interim meetings Fall 2025.  
(Early session kickoff in election year)
- Regular session kick off January 13, 2026.
- “Sine Die” March 13, 2026.  
...but wait...there's more!
- Special Session(s)
  - Redistricting.
  - Property taxes.





## 2026 Session (continued)

- Session Stats.
  - ~1900 Bills submitted.
  - ~230 bills passed BUT not all have been enrolled (165 - 3/13/2026).
  - No budget passed.
  - Special Session(s) pending (Week of April 20<sup>th</sup>).





## 2026 Special Session(s)

- Budget (Budget is due July 1, 2026).
- Property Taxes.
- Redistricting.

[www.florida-stormwater.org](http://www.florida-stormwater.org)





## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✗ **SB 558/HB 239 – Standards for Stormwater Systems. Oppose (Failed)**

Senate – Burgess/House – Grow

- Required all new stormwater systems adhere to FDOT Standards and would preempt all local laws/requirements addressing stormwater projects.
- Required final inspections to be completed by 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspectors.

Senate bill amended and made one committee/House bill not heard in meetings.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✗ **SB 558/HB 239 – Standards for Stormwater Systems. Oppose (Failed)**

Senate – Burgess/House – Grow

- Background/Key Points to this bill (2<sup>nd</sup> year for this type of bill)
  - An industry driven bill – similar attempts have been made in 14 other states (all have failed).
  - Statewide standard would significantly limit ability to address environmental/safety concerns.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections = industry driven effort.

(Joint efforts from FSA [including members], other organizations, and industry worked to address this bill!!!!)



## 2026 Priority Issues

### × SB 718/HB 479 – Water Management/Land and Water Management. Oppose (Failed)

Senate – McClain/House – Maggard

- Bill would preempt all local government laws, rules, and ordinances that pertain to water quality, environment, water quantity, you name it...its gone!
- Would give authority to state CFO to enforce and penalize any local government not following the law once effective.
- House version was amended to just exempt all local wetland buffer rules and require only state permitting standard.

House bill amended and made one committee/Senate bill not heard in meetings.



## Quick Thought....

- These bills (or concepts) are not new.
- Both presented last year/year before.
- Both would be extremely impactful to stormwater/local government environmental regulations.
- They might be back in some shape or form...

*Feedback is key to working on these issues!!!*





## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **HB 607 – Industries and Professional Activities. Oppose (Failed)**

House – Yarkosky

- Bill removes continuing education and licensure education requirements for multiple professions, including engineers.
- Moves authority for many professions (including engineers) to DBPR and removes authority of boards or commissions.

House bill heard in two committees/No Senate companion bill submitted.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 508/HB 611 – Landscape Irrigation. Monitor (Failed)**

Senate – Truenow/House – Cobb

- Bill provides standard statewide design criteria, zoning, and spacing requirements for new/modified irrigation systems.
- Requires licensed irrigation contractors for installation and connection, and landscape irrigation permits.
- Statewide watering schedules, prohibits certain high-volume or inefficient irrigation practices, mandates micro-irrigation in narrow beds, and establishes minimum distances between emitters and impervious surfaces.
- Authorizes local enforcement for noncompliance.

*Bills not heard in any meetings.*



## 2026 Priority Issues

### × SB 544/HB 495 – Golf Courses/Golf Course Best Management Practices. Monitor (Failed)

Senate – Truenow/House – Albert

- Bill transferred BMP program from FDEP to DACS (Including the certification program).
- Maintained partnership with UF/IFAS to work on BMPs.
- Exemptions from local fertilizer blackout periods retained.

*Bills heard in committee meetings, not passed to either floor.*



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 1386 – Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force. Monitor (Failed)**

Senate – Smith

- Bill would update BMAPs based on BGATF recommendations.
- Updated OSTDS recommendations in BMAPs.
- Would require FDEP to review projects over \$1 million dollars.

Senate bill not heard in any committees/No House bill submitted.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 1468/HB 1167 – Advanced Wastewater Treatment. Monitor (Failed)**

Senate – Berman/House – Cross

- Bill required advanced wastewater treatment for wastewater treatment facilities.
- Facilities over 1 MGD would annually report WQ data to FDEP.
- FDEP and WMDs would annually report to Governor and Legislature status of facility upgrades and data.

Bill heard in Senate committee meeting/House bill not heard in any meetings.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 218/HB 217 – Land Use Regulations. Monitor (Failed)**

Senate – Gaetz/House – Abbott

- Bill defined “Impacted Local Government”.
- Preemptions to those listed in specific Federal Disaster Declarations.

*Bill heard in Senate committee meetings/House bill not heard in any meetings.*

*(Bills goals are to fix 2025 SB 180 issues – specifically to those in the panhandle region)*



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✘ **SB 840/HB 1465 – Land Use Regulations for Local Governments Affected by Natural Disasters. Monitor (Failed)**

Senate –DiCeglie/House – Andrade

- Bill defined “impacted local government” – municipalities within 50 miles of a hurricane’s track and included in a federal major disaster declaration.
- Preemptions to those listed in specific Federal Disaster Declarations.
- Bill removed concerning legislation from 2025 SB 180 Emergencies Bill.

Bill heard in Senate committee meetings, passed on floor/House bill not heard in any meetings.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✓ SB 302/HB 1035 – Coastal Resiliency/Nature-Based Coastal Resiliency. Monitor (Passed)

Senate – Garcia/House – Mooney

- Bill provides limitations on dredge/fill activities in certain aquatic preserves (and allows some dredge activity in Biscayne Bay for restoration projects).
- Bill promotes nature-based structures within aquatic preserves to strengthen coastal resiliency and preserve marine environments.
- Requires FDEP to develop by January 1, 2027, statewide guidelines and rules for nature-based coastal resiliency projects, clearly defined permitting, and incentives for green infrastructure.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✓ SB 208/HB 399 – Land Use and Development Regulations. Monitor (Passed)

Senate – McClain/House – Borrero

- Bill provides set standards for development permit application fees.
- **Key pieces removed prior to passing:**
  - *Change to majority vote of the governing body decisions.*
  - *OPPAGA to study impacts of removing the Urban Development Boundary (UDB).*
- **Key piece almost added in...but amendment failed:**
  - *Rural boundaries.*



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✓ **SB 1510/HB 1417 – Department of Environmental Protection. Monitor (Passed)**

Senate – Massullo/House – LaMarca

- Bill removes the Environmental Regulation Commission (ERC).
- Florida Communities Trust from FDEP to the Acquisition and Restoration Council.
- Requires increased stormwater BMPs for solar facilities in the NFWFMD.
- Revises dates for OSTDS requirements in BMAPs.



## 2026 Priority Issues

### ✓ **SB 848/HB 1457 – Stormwater Treatment. Monitor (Passed)**

Senate – Truenow/House – Pittman

- Bill provides revisions to the (*still in development*) Water Quality Enhancement Area (WQEA) rule.
- Defines compensating stormwater treatment, enhancement credit, and pollutant reduction allocation.
- Requires regional stormwater management system permittees to demonstrate adequate financial capability.



## 2026 Session

### So much more going on...

- Bills referencing **Biosolids** (SB 1294/HB 1245; SB 1474/HB 1285; SB 1230/HB 1019; SB 290/HB 433)
  - SB 1230/HB 1019 - **Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances** – Limitations on PFAS foams (almost a complete ban), requires sampling for wastewater and biosolids.
- **Blue Ribbon Projects** (SB 354/HB 299)
  - Provided “guidelines” for large (15,000 acres or more) developments.
- **Tributaries of St. Johns River** (SB 1066/HB 981)
  - Restoration of Ocklawaha River.





## What to Anticipate Next...

### 2026

- Budget/Taxes/Budget...
- Flood Inventory and Restoration Report (September 1, 2026).
- WQEA Rule.
- November election/New administration.

### 2027

- ✓ New administration/New priorities.
- ✓ Stormwater rule compliance.
- ✓ Preemption philosophy.
- ✓ Funding.

# Questions?



Diana Ferguson  
Lobbyist

Florida Stormwater Association  
[dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com](mailto:dferguson@rutledge-ecenia.com)



Kevin Coyne  
Regulatory Affairs

Florida Stormwater Association  
[kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com](mailto:kevin.coyne@ampuptoday.com)



Evaluation Survey - We value your feedback!



*OneWaterFL.com*



**Florida Based. Regionally Skilled.**

**We Look Forward to Seeing You at the Sunseeker!**

 **FSA** 2026 ANNUAL  
CONFERENCE  
Florida Stormwater Association

***RISING TO  
THE CHALLENGE:***  
Navigating Stormwater  
Change ***Together***

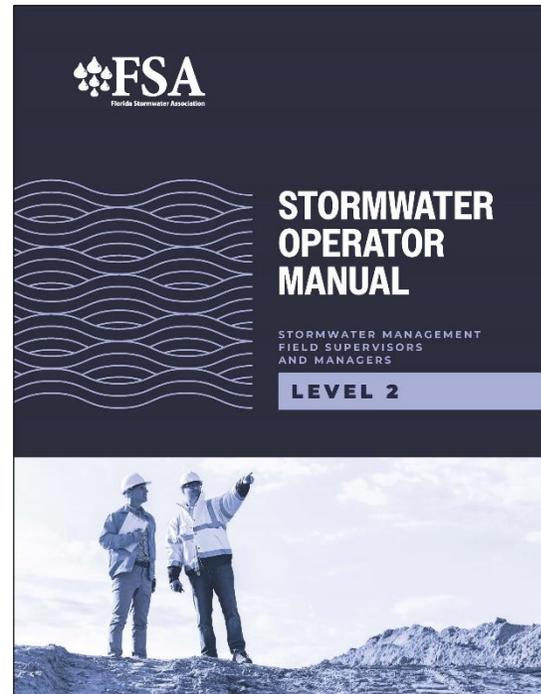
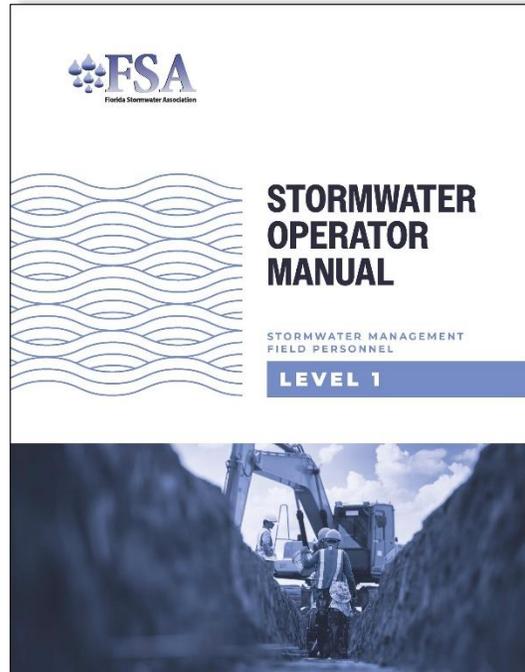
**June 17-19, 2026** | Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor, FL

**June 17-19, 2026** | Sunseeker Resort in Charlotte Harbor, FL

[florida-stormwater.org/conference](https://florida-stormwater.org/conference)



## Stormwater Operator Certification Classes



*The Original Industry Standard  
for Florida Stormwater  
Practitioners!*

[florida-stormwater.org/training](https://florida-stormwater.org/training)



- **Presentation and Recording** = [florida-stormwater.org/webinars](https://florida-stormwater.org/webinars)
- **Continuing Education** =
  - ✓ Registered attendee
  - ✓ Attend full 1-hour
- **Evaluation Survey** 





**Thank you for Joining Us!**

[florida-stormwater.org/webinars](https://florida-stormwater.org/webinars)

info@florida-stormwater.org

888-221-3124



**Florida Stormwater Association**