

CITY OF CORAL GABLES
WATERWAY ADVISORY BOARD
HYBRID MEETING AT BUILDING DEPARTMENT/ZOOM
WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026 - 5:30 P.M.

MEMBERS	District	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	APPOINTED BY:
		26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	
Debbie Swain	2	P												Mayor, Vince C. Lago
Pat Nolan	1	P												Commissioner, Melissa Castro
Manuel Menendez	3	A												Vice-Mayor, Rhonda Anderson
Rodney Barreto	1	P												Commissioner, Richard D. Lara
Manny Portuondo	7	E												Commissioner, Ariel Fernandez
Bertram Goldsmith	7	p												Commission-As-A-Whole
Levi Meyer	6	P												Board-As-A-Whole
Adriana Fernandez	CR	P												City Manager, Peter J. Iglesias
Jennifer Lane		P												University Of Miami

P – Present

E – Excused Absence

A – Absent

R – Resigned

(-) – No Appointment

(-) – No Meeting

STAFF:

- Lorena Garrido, Central Division Administrative Manager
- Anthonique Jay, CIP Projects Analyst
- Officer Toledo, Marine Patrol
- Lieutenant Luna, Coral Gables Police Department

GUEST:

- Richard Ricardo, Clean Rivers Foundation and Applied 6 Engineering

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Levi Meyer. Quorum was met.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

Mrs. Swain made the motion to approve the minutes of November 5, 2025, seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

MARINE PATROL REPORT:

Operations and Events

Marine Patrol reported participation in multiple operations and community events during the reporting period, including the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, the Junior Orange Bowl Parade, and Sky Watch and barricade setup on December 10.

Marine Patrol also conducted a haul search at the Port of Miami in coordination with the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office. As part of Region 7, Marine Patrol assisted partner agencies with port security operations. A vessel was searched to ensure no parasitic devices were present. No arrests were made.

Enforcement Activity

- Fishery violations/citations: 2
- Regular citations issued: 12
- Subjects checked: 14
- Area checks conducted: 103
- Incident reports completed: 7

Stops and Calls for Service

- Vessel stops: 17
- Traffic stops (land): 6
- Calls for service: 14
- Community contacts: 1

Hours Summary

- Special detail hours (radio, barricades, etc.): 80 hours
- Administrative hours: 20 hours
- Training hours: 60 hours
- Leave hours: 70 hours
- Maintenance hours (boats/equipment): 20 hours

Presentation

Mr. Ricardo distributed samples and explained that the product contains graphene that has been replaced with minerals. He stated that the formulation is designed to recreate the environment of the human stomach, which naturally supports and houses the microbiome.

He added that microbiomes can hibernate when no food source is present and later become active once nutrients are introduced. Testing conducted in Holland at Delft University showed that microbiome samples from the human body (such as saliva) remained viable for 8–10 months and were successfully reactivated by adding glucose.

Mr. Ricardo noted that when applied to contaminated water, the material's negative charge attracts positively charged organic pollutants. Once attracted, the microbiome becomes active and begins consuming the contaminants, helping to restart natural ecosystems impacted by sludge, algae, sewage, septic overflows, and microplastics.

Board member Fernandez asked whether monitoring would focus on specific water quality metrics such as phosphorus, nitrogen, and dissolved oxygen, or more qualitative factors such as odor and water clarity. Mr. Ricardo responded that he is seeking a collaborative approach and has been in contact with Rachel from Miami Waterkeeper, who has access to grant funding. He expressed interest in coordinating with multiple nonprofit organizations to support monitoring, validation, and implementation.

Mr. Meyer stated that if there is a no-cost proposal to the City allowing short-form testing, conducted in collaboration with educational institutions, he does not see harm in proceeding. He noted that the primary consideration would be site selection.

Mr. Meyer further emphasized the importance of clearly defining key performance indicators (KPIs), including what metrics will be measured and how success will be evaluated. He added that if monitoring or testing involves costs, the City should determine whether those funds are best allocated to this effort or to alternative water quality improvement processes.

Mr. Barreto made a motion to move forward with the pilot program, directing the City Public Works Department to identify potential locations, for the City to develop the criteria to be met and report its findings back to the Board. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Swain, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

Discussion:

Mr. Meyer requested that the Oasis Aqua Bot item be added to the pending items list so the Board can monitor the results over the next several meetings. An update is requested by the next meeting, pending Commission approval, including feedback from the Public Works Department and proposed locations, with ongoing monthly check-ins thereafter.

Mr. Meyer noted that he is seeing preparations underway for the bridge for the Underline and emphasized the importance of having a City representative verify, throughout installation, and that all agreed-upon requirements are being met

Mr. Nolan made a motion to move forward with the 2026 meeting calendar, seconded by Mr. Goldsmith, all were in favor, and adopted unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.