

Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee Public Meeting Minutes January 21, 2026

The Miami River Commission (MRC) Stormwater Subcommittee's public meeting convened January 21, 2026, 10 AM, 1407 NW 7 ST. The attendance sheet is attached.

- I. "Miami River Basin Water Quality Improvement Plan" Agency Quarterly Implementation Progress Reports** – Mr Charles Groppe, Miami Dade County's Department of Environmental Resource Management's (DERM), distributed and presented a report covering July – September 2025. The most alarming water quality violations were detected in August and September 2025 at Wagner Creek testing stations WC02 and WC 03 had 6 Enterococci Bacteria results of 24,916 (cfu/100ml) when the safe water quality standard is only 130 (cfu/100ml). Mr Groppe noted the highest reading possible in the test is 24,916, therefore the actual amount may have exceeded that amount.

MRC Director Bibeau referenced the MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's 7/2/25 public meeting minutes which included a detailed proposal following a successful 1-year free pilot resulting in a 76% reduction of Enterococci Bacteria and an 82% reduction in E. Coli Bacteria, 5 oxygenators with online water quality samplers for 1 year spread out along Wagner Creek would cost only \$18,000 per month which will hopefully be funded by the public sector. Mr Bibeau stated the machine was turned off between May 2025 and Jan 2, 2026 therefore was not in operation during the recently reported results. Mr Bibeau stated the Dominican Republic's Minister of Environment recently visited the machine and are negotiating for its services. MRC member Broton, whom is a Spring Garden resident, stated she hoped the public sector would commence paying the \$18,000 per month for 5 units to clean Wagner Creek.

II. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along South River Drive West of 27 Ave

The MRC Stormwater Subcommittee's April 2025 public meeting minutes state:

"NW South River Drive from 27 Ave to 20 ST proceeds along a portion of the Miami River which has an unconsolidated shoreline, and several large and growing areas where the shoreline is collapsing into the River. When one of several large sink holes previously grew past the street's steel safety barrier, the City of Miami placed temporary plastic barricades around the hole to keep pedestrians and cars from falling into the Miami River. As the shoreline sink hole(s) grew larger over time, the ground under one of the plastic barriers fell into the River, along with the temporary barricade. Now the large sink hole (one of several) is slightly into the actual street's paved asphalt, and erosion has hollowed out under a portion of the street, where there is no longer solid ground beneath a portion of the street's asphalt. School buses etc. drive on this street (which has no sidewalks, no drainage, no curb and gutter, etc.) On March 6, 2023 the MRC adopted a unanimous resolution stating in part, "encouraging the City of Miami to apply for a TAP (FDOT – TPO) grant or seek a State / Federal cost share / earmark to repair the additional 2 adjacent shoreline collapses,

while constructing a public Riverwalk and new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, etc.

The eastern most section of the subject collapsed shoreline is around a broken stormwater outfall (owned by FDOT) which drains 27 Ave. During the MRC's March 6, 2023 public meeting FDOT representatives presented construction engineering documents to repair this collapsed area, while planning to reconstruct a small portion of NW South River Drive (still with no sidewalks, no drainage, no curb and gutter, etc.) The distributed MRC Urban Infill and Greenways subcommittee's September 23, 2024 public meeting minutes with this item on the agenda state, "The FDOT representatives stated the City of Miami indicated they maintain this portion of South River Drive, but do not own it, and the City granted a permit for the planned FDOT repair. The City of Miami clarified that the permit issued for the FDOT collapsed shoreline restoration project was issued for work and Maintenance of Traffic within the City right-of-way (25 feet from Southerly R/W line of the Miami Canal to the south).

Attendees reviewed and discussed several maps and plats previously emailed from the City of Miami, Miami-Dade County, and or SFWMD. For the eastern half of the subject riverfront portion of NW South River Drive (east of the stone bridge over tributary), the City of Miami and Miami-Dade County Representatives stated they believe South River Drive and the shoreline are part of the Miami River ROW, and therefore owned by SFWMD. Armando Vilaboy, SFWMD, provided numerous titles etc. supporting SFWMD's belief that they only own the water in the subject area, and no land. Mr. Vilaboy indicated if SFWMD is wrong, and the City and County are correct in that SFWMD indeed owns the shoreline and this portion of South River Drive, SFWMD does not own or reconstruct streets therefore would be unable to assist with the needed project, but SFWMD would be willing to provide ownership of the subject area to the City free of charge. Ms. Molina, Miami-Dade County, stated since the City has been maintaining the subject portion of South River Drive, therefore the City could claim ownership from SFWMD. The City clarified that the City only has maintenance responsibilities within its right of way. Ms. Molina agreed to research the amount of impact fees the County recently collected from the immediate areas 3 large developments which are currently under construction, and if those impact fees may be used for the subject project. City of Miami Public Works Director Santana indicated he will be discussing these issues in the future with the City Manager.

City of Miami Public Works Director Santana stated the City of Miami owns the western half of the subject riverfront portion of South River Drive (west of the stone bridge over the tributary) in addition to 4 City of Miami owned riverfront folios which are managed by the City of Miami Parks Department. Director Santana suggested the MRC contact City of Miami Assistant City Manager Barbara Hernandez, whom oversees the Parks Department, as they are leading the City's efforts to repair the 2 large and growing collapsed portions of the shoreline in these City owned riverfront folios, and Public Works will coordinate with the Parks Department to include reconstructing this City owned portion of South River Drive in the subject future City of Miami project.

In addition to the TAP (FDOT / TPO) grant opportunity, attendees noted the subject project ("repair the additional 2 adjacent shoreline collapses, while constructing a public Riverwalk and new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, etc.") is a good fit for a large Federal grant."

Attendees reviewed and discussed an updated color-coded aerial exhibit prepared by the MRC, showing the subject area and noting ownership of the 4 connecting areas with the entire street owned by the City of Miami whom recently permitted improvements currently under construction by the adjacent development. Attendees noted since the City of Miami owns a 25' wide easement between the private properties and the street, therefore there is sufficient space to shift the street towards the upland, which increases the space for the public Riverwalk. Attendees noted there is a new residential development under construction in the subject area, with another planned development in planning, therefore the number of pedestrians and vehicles will be increasing. Jim Murley noted the following next four steps to bring this MRC recommendation to fruition:

- 1) Resolve Ownership
- 2) Design
- 3) Funding including City Applying for grants
- 4) Construction

The MRC continues to recommend enforcing the shoreline ordinance by making expedited emergency repairs to the collapsed shoreline and encouraging the City of Miami to apply for a TAP (FDOT – TPO) grant, Federal Grant, or seek a State / Federal cost share / earmark to construct a public Riverwalk featuring a new seawall, and a new stretch of the riverfront portion of South River Drive from NW 20 ST to NW 27 Ave, featuring landscaping, decorative lighting, drainage, curb and gutter, etc.

The MRC SSC's 10/1/25 public meeting minutes state in part, "Omar Suarez and Scott Riggs, Miami-Dade County, stated they found 2 plats, the most Northern part the River is 150 feet while in the more southern area the plat shows the River is 200 feet wide, therefore they believe the subject area is the SFWMD's." Armando Vilaboy stated the SFWMD still disagrees with this conclusion, but will pay for a survey to further investigate. Jim Murley noted considering the adjacent development is finishing construction the traffic on this dangerous street will significantly increase, therefore these needed repairs are time sensitive in order to provide public safety. Attendees thanked FDOT which completed construction of their 1 outfall and portion of collapsing shoreline close to 27 Ave.

III. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline Along Wagner Creek South of NW 20 ST

The City of Miami emailed the following update:

"Good morning, Mr. Bibeau.

Please, here is the quarterly update for "40-B243800 Wagner Creek Embankment Project Status".

The execution of this project has been modified as follows:

- **Phase I:** As emergency comprised between NW 20th Street and NW 15th Avenue / NW 19th Terrace.
- **Phase II:** Future implementation comprised between NW 15th Avenue / NW 19th Terrace south to pedestrian bridge.

Now, after completion of the 30% Plans approved, at this moment we are in the negotiation to continue the design of the Phase I of the project on its 60%, 90% 100% Plans and its construction.

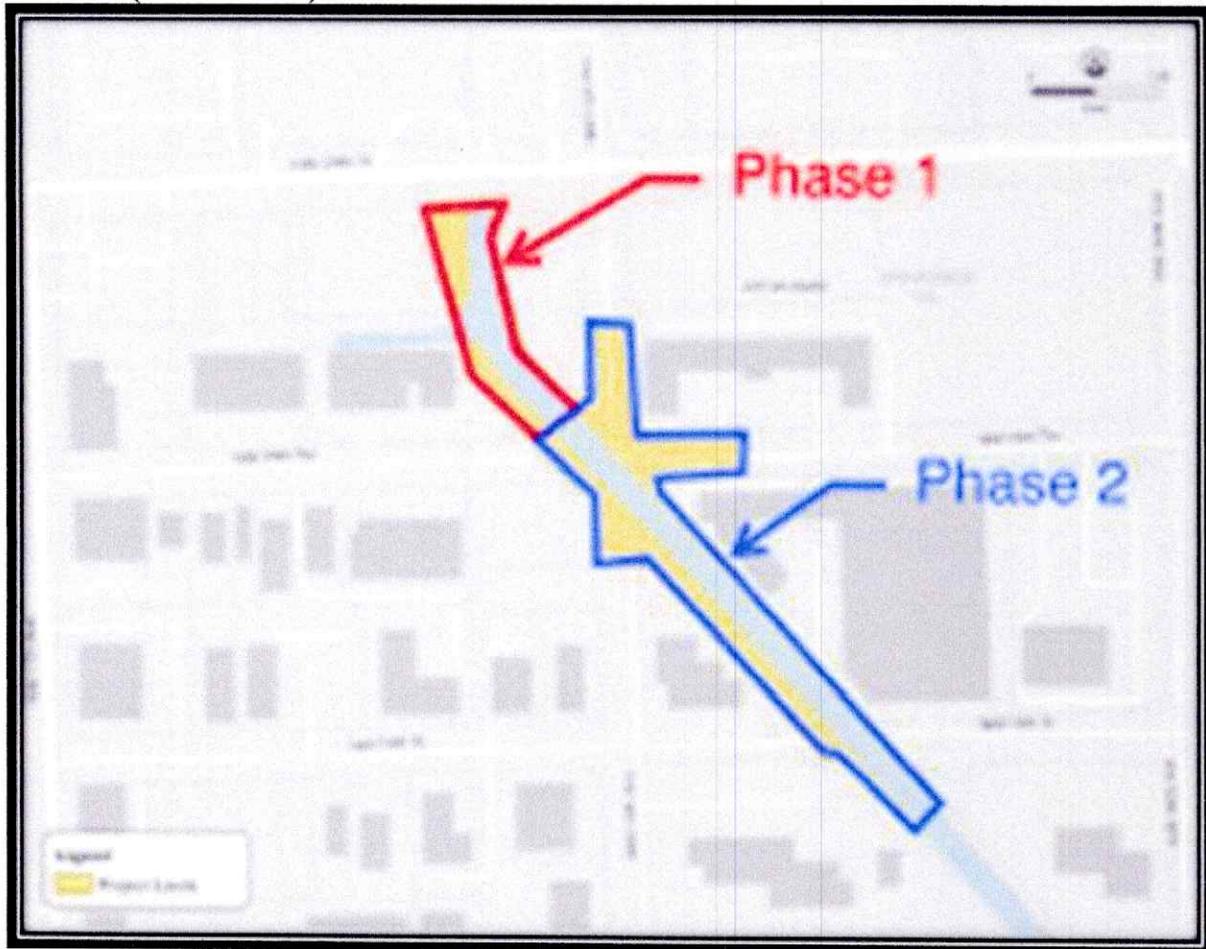
Attached you will find: Draft of the latest Scope of Works for Phase I, and below, the latest Project Status Update.

Please, after submitting this update, let me know if you require my attendance at the scheduled quarterly public meeting.

Wagner Creek Embankment Stabilization 40-B243800 - Project Status Update – Dec/25
Scope

Design and construction of improvements to stabilize the Wagner Creek embankments from NW 20 Street to NW 19 Street, and associated right-of-way improvements. The work includes stabilizing the embankments using sheet piling and geoweb/geocells, dredging, installing tidal valves and manatee grates, roadway reconstruction, sidewalks, landscaping, and lighting.

Location (Civic Center)





Financials

Total Project Costs:

Estimated Costs: \$16,096,190
 (\$14,007,087)

Budget: \$2,089,103

Variance:

Phase 1 Project Costs (Emergency Repair):

Estimated Costs: \$6,311,548
 (\$4,222,445)

Budget: \$2,089,103

Variance:

Schedule

Current Phase: Design

Next Phase: Construction Procurement

Project Team

Project Manager: Jose Borrego, P.E.

Construction Manager: TBD

Professional Services Consultant(s): HDR Inc (Design)

Contractor: TBD

Status:

- **Scope:** Existing and proposed canal dredging cross-sections were developed to present to DEP/SFWMD.

Through a field review, the RPW Consultant Reviewer identified significant erosion along the canal bank, the displaced soil accumulated at the canal bottom reducing the flow capacity and increasing water velocity during storm events. The consultant reviewer recommended dredging the canal to its original bottom elevation and width, followed by implementing slope stabilization measures to address the issue long-term. An internal RPW meeting to discuss the dredging work (Emergency Maintenance Phase 1 Plan) was held on 07-29-25 to discuss next steps and the canal bottom typical section. Outcome included splitting the project into two phases, Phase I as an emergency phase and Phase II for the remaining of the original scope. A Field meeting with the geotechnical engineer and meeting a second time with SFWMD were conducted. See below for additional details:

- **Scope of work by Phase:**

- Phase 1 – Canal Dredging; authorization received from SFWMD on 09-30-25.
 - Emergency repair along Wagner Creek on east and west side, near NW 20 St including canal stabilization and dredging.
- Phase 2 – Remaining canal stabilization, dredging and roadway improvements.

- **Design Phase Status:**

- Kick off meeting held on 11-14-24; topographic survey, hydrographic survey, and geotech are completed.
- Soil boring tests are needed in two private properties.
 - 1919 NW 15 Ave: the owner executed the access agreement on 01-22-25.
 - 1500 NW 20 St: the owner advised that tests were performed in previous year but was not provided to the City. The City proceeded with tests near the parking lot area. Additional tests may be required adjacent to the property on the embankment side.
- 15% Technical Memo received on 02-28-25.
- 30% plans approved as noted on 07-18-25. Field meeting with geotechnical engineer was conducted on 08-13-25 to determine optimal wall design and possible dredging issues.
- Updated Scope: scope of work finalized on 01-09-26, to be sent for signature by end of January 2026.
- Updated Proposal: PM sent scope of work to consultant on 01-09-26. Next: proposal anticipated by mid-January 2026.
- Plans Review: Consultant assigned by Procurement in October 2025. PM to request proposal from consultant once scope of work is approved, anticipated by end of January 2026.

- **Permits/Approvals:** The following permits/reviews are the anticipated for this project:

- Environmental (Tree)
- RPW
- Building
- MDC-DTPW-Traffic Division
- DEP/SFWMD – Pre-application meeting held on 05-21-25 resulting in an ERP permit being required at the 60% and 90% deliverables.

- Second meeting was held with DEP/SFWMD on 08-08-25 to help determine course of action on the two phases mentioned above focusing on when the dredging needs to be implemented during the construction phase. Outcome: SFWMD confirmed that the dredging and embankment stabilization can be performed as part of Phase 1. (Emergency maintenance plans).
- Exemption Verification for SFWMD application #250819-56142 was submitted on 09-04-25, ERP Exemption Permit No. 13-114724-P issued on September 31, 2025.
- DERM Class II – Pre-application meeting held on 04-04-25 with DERM, Consultant and RPW
- **Utility Coordination:**
 - Utility Coordination began on 07-03-25.
- **Construction Dates:** Based on December 2025 Schedule:
 - Start date: July 2027
 - End date: July 2028
 - The construction of the sidewalk connecting NW 20 St to NW 19 Ter and NW 15 Ave was completed by the RPW Special Projects team.
- **Financials:**
 - The project estimated costs were updated with new cost estimates following the 15% recommendations.
 - The project estimated costs will be updated to reflect Phase I only once project is divided into two phases.

State appropriation request submitted early 2025 and is in review.

Please, let me know if you have any further questions.

Thank you.



Jose Borrego, P.E., CGC
Project Manager

Department of Resilience & Public Works

Roadway Infrastructure

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MRC Vice Charman Murley and Director Bibeau noted Wagner Creek was recently dredged for \$20 million, therefore respectfully recommended removing that portion of the project. The project was never intended to include dredging, rather is simply a needed shoreline stabilization (either sea wall or rip-rap), with a landscaped and lighted bike / ped path on the west shore only to improve the City owned public waterfront greenspace at the 2 street dead ends. The County's recently completed sections of shoreline stabilization using rip rap on Wagner Creek south of NW 14 ST was cited as an example. Removing the dredging in an area which has no vessels and sufficient flood conveyance capacity will significantly reduce the unfunded \$16,000,000 estimated cost.

IV. Discussion Regarding Collapsing Shoreline at NW North River Drive and NW 25 Ave

The City of Miami emailed the following update:

“Good morning, Mr. Bibeau,

The City has issued the Notice to Proceed (NTP) to begin the design of Project 40-B253603, Shoreline Improvements at NW 25 Avenue and the Miami River's South Shore.

The consultant is currently working on the survey, geotechnical investigation, and data collection in preparation for initiating the 60% design phase.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,
Carolina Zamora



Carolina Zamora

Project Manager

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The MRC SSC's October 2025 public meeting minutes further stated:

“Shoreline Repair Mini Rapids Park 40-B253603 Scope Design and construction of improvements to stabilize short segments of the shoreline along the Miami River which will be treated as emergency type repairs.

Financials Estimated Costs: \$1,625,875

Schedule Current Phase: A/E Selection Budget: \$500,000

Next Phase: Design Variance: (\$1,125,875)

Project Team Project Manager: Carolina Zamora Construction Manager: Maurice Hardie
Professional Services Consultant(s): GHD Contractor: TBD Status:

- A/E Selection Phase Status: Proposal received on 04-04-25, comments sent on 04-14-25 for internal review. Comments provided to consultant on 05-27-25. Negotiations anticipated to be completed by end of September 2025.

- Permits/Approvals: Anticipated permits/approvals below: Environmental (Tree), Building, SFWMD, FDEP, DERM Class II, ACOE (navigable), HEPB (possibly historic coral rock wall), Archeological (near Miami River).

- Construction Phase Status: Based on August 2025 Schedule of Construction start date – February 2027
o Construction end date – October 2027

- Financials: o Parking Surcharge: \$250,000. Award ends on 09-30-25; General Funds: \$250,000. Award ends on 09-30-25”

V. Discussion Regarding 169 NW South River Drive – The City of Miami owns a crushed stormwater outfall, located beneath the County owned 169 NW South River Drive. The County riverfront parcel is a sanitary sewer easement where a sewer line tunnels beneath the Miami River to the sewage pump station on the opposite side of the River, there is often sanitary odor and sanitary manholes are clogged. Debbie Griner, Roddy Gomez, and Juan Valdes, WASD, provided the following information:

- WASD conducted dye testing in Wagner Creek but did not locate any sanitary sewer leaking into Wagner Creek
- WASD purchased and will install odor control devices at 169 NW South River Drive
- WASD will provide CCTV in the sanitary sewer manholes at 169 NW South River Drive to search for major cracks, and repair any cracks they find
- WASD will look into created renditions of a pocket park at 169 NW South River Drive
- WASD will coordinate with City to allow City to repair their crushed stormwater outfall at 169 NW South River Drive

Attendees thanked the WASD representatives.

VI. Discussion Regarding Miami River Walk the WBID to Search and Locate Sources of Contamination

Malika Muthiah, Miami Dade County, distributed the “Miami River WBID’s Bacteria Pollution Control Plan (BPCP). The County hired GHD consultants to help the County search for and locate sources of bacteria contamination in the Miami River and its tributaries, including Wagner Creek. The County hosted the “Maps on the Table (MOT) Stakeholder Event on 12/19/25. Multiple agencies will physically search for sources of bacteria contamination in the Miami River and its tributaries on February 3-5. MRC Director Bibeau noted the agencies conducted a Miami River walk the WBID around a decade ago, which located over 100 sources of contamination, yet the agencies did not subsequently continue working hard to eliminate the located sources of contamination, many of which remain today.

VII. New Business

The public meeting adjourned.

Miami River Commission's Stormwater Subcommittee

Public Meeting

January 21, 2026 - 10:00 AM

1407 NW 7 ST, Miami, FL

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