



**MINUTES
TOWN OF JUPITER
ENVIRONMENTAL TASK FORCE (ETF)
TOWN HALL COMMUNITY ROOM
June 23, 2025
6:00 PM**

ROLL CALL:

Chair Willie Puz	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member Jill Watson	X
Vice-Chair Christina Akly	X	Member Taylor O'Hara	<input type="checkbox"/>
Member Christa Cherry	X	Member Kara Kreuger (Alt)	X
Member Emily O'Mahoney	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member Nathan Shemella (Alt)	X
Member Beth Summers	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Staff Liaisons: Ashley Reeves, Natural Resources Coordinator
Eddy Akpoji, Senior Natural Resources Coordinator
Stephanie A. Thoburn, Asst. Director of Planning and Zoning

CITIZEN COMMENTS

All non-agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. Anyone wishing to speak is asked to go to the podium and state his/her name and address for the record. **The Task Force will not discuss these items this evening.**

MINUTES

Approval of the April 28, 2024 ETF Meeting Minutes [Attachment 1]

Motion to approve by member Cherry. Seconded by member Watson.

Christina Akly	Christa Cherry	Jill Watson	Kara Kreuger	Nathan Shemella
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

PUBLIC BUSINESS

1. Welcome – New Task Force members: Taylor O'Hara, Kara Kreuger, and Nathan Shemella

Acting Chair Akly asked newest Task Force members to introduce themselves. Members Kara Krueger and Nathan Shemella introduced themselves and their environmental background.

2. Presentation – Vulnerability Assessment Update by Town of Jupiter Utilities and, Hazen and Sawyer [Attachment 2]

Amanda Barnes, Director of Water & Stormwater Utilities, introduced herself and Julie Bielecki and Eric Stanley, representatives from Hazen and Sawyer, the consultants who are helping the Town with a Resilient Florida planning grant from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to conduct the Vulnerability Assessment. Hazen and Sawyer are also helping to implement the program, do the modeling, and get implementation grants. Ms. Bielecki outlined the presentation on the Vulnerability Assessment: what it is, what it entails, the advantages to the Town, and the progress made so far.

Vulnerability Assessment was previously identified as a key recommendation by the Town in a study called the Sustainability Assessment. The Town wanted to pursue the Vulnerability Assessment to understand the effects of flooding, sea level rise, extreme weather, tidal conditions, and rainfall on important assets.

The grant given to the Town was a 100% reimbursable grant – the state will reimburse the Town upon the completion of the project.

Ms. Bielecki described the benefits of completing the Vulnerability Assessment: will make the Town eligible for Resilient Florida funding and create an up-to-date Stormwater Model with the Town's current characteristics.

Ms. Bielecki listed the steps to complete the Assessment as per Florida statutes. Hazen and Sawyer have already completed the first two steps – identified the Town's critical assets and developed the stormwater model. The team is currently undertaking the third step – overlaying the critical assets on the flood data to understand how exposed each asset is to flooding. Exposure rates of each asset will show the Town what assets are most vulnerable. Later on, the team will establish focus areas and consolidate for Town Council to review and submit to the FDEP.

Task Force members discussed where the assets are located geographically and whether they are available in a report. Ms. Barnes explained that the analysis process is still underway and being updated. Tentatively scheduled to present the information to Town Council by the end of 2025.

Task Force members asked if this opens the Town up to more grants. Staff responds affirmatively and discusses the plan to utilize these grants for Sawfish Bay Park.

Task Force members asked how the flooding models compare to those from FEMA. Mr. Stanley responds that the team's flooding model is tailored to the Town, not the entire state like FEMA.

Staff asked about the 1-5 exposure analysis scale and the degree of each designation. Ms. Bielecki responded that a 3 is when an asset should be taken into more consideration.

Task Force members asked what the main cause of the flooding is. Ms. Bielecki responded that it is primarily because of the Town's coastal environment.

Task Force members and Staff further discussed the presented flood maps, primarily which roads and parking lots are the most at risk.

3. Staff Updates

a. North Delaware Exotic Removal

Staff explained the progress on exotic removal at the North Delaware open space property. Started exotic removal at the beginning of June. No development plans for the property as of the meeting. Staff has been in contact with the Jupiter High School Environmental Horticulture Group who will grow slash pine and saw palmetto for the Town. The trees will be used for edging and filling. Staff is looking to increase the amount of wetland areas.

b. Sims Creek Preserve

Staff updated task force members on the status of the Sims Creek Preserve project. Staff had bid opening earlier that day. Project includes public access with TruGrid permeable pavers and a bioswale area on the south portion of the property. Permeability of the TruGrid Pavers means there is no need for the construction of new retention. Contract is tentatively schedules to go to Town Council for approval in August.

c. Natural Environment Centennial Committee

Staff provided updates on previous and upcoming Centennial events put on by the Natural Environmental Centennial Committee, including Arbor Day in May and the Paddleboard tour and waterway cleanup in Jupiter Oxbow in October. Staff asked Task Force members to reach out if they want to volunteer. Life on Jupiter Water panel presentation on local fisherman in November.

4. Task Force Member comments

Task Force members expressed enjoyment in the previous ETF meeting's presentation on oyster recycling. Expressed a desire for more presentations on Sawfish Bay Park.

Task Force members asked if parks are switching grass for turf. Staff explained that state legislation regarding turf had just changed. Staff affirms that turf will primarily be used in parts on playgrounds, and most likely will not encroach on the surrounding park area. Staff informed Task Force members of an upcoming public input workshop in the Community Center on the Parks Master Plan Update.

Task Force members congratulated Task Force member Watson for becoming a member at large and Staff member Akpoji for joining the Town of Jupiter team.

Next meeting – tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall Community Room.

ADJOURNMENT

7:16pm motion to adjourn

Will B 8-25-2025