



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## Citizen Recommendations

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C.2..

3/3/2025

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**Subject:**

Terry Mott - CEER #2025077

**Fiscal Impact:**

N/A

**Dept/Office:**

N/A

**Requested Action:**

N/A

**Summary Explanation and Background:**

Terry Mott submitted CEER #2025077. Recommendation is attached.

**Clerk to the Board Instructions:**

N/A

## Horst, Rachel

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**From:** CEER@brevardfl.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, January 31, 2025 11:29 PM  
**To:** Horst, Rachel  
**Subject:** A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2025077

### Recommendation # 2025077

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2025077 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

#### Contact Information:

##### Group/Organization

<b>Name</b>	Terry Mott
<b>Address</b>	4899 WEXFORD DR, ROCKLEDGE FL 32955
<b>Phone</b>	(321) 223-6951
<b>Email</b>	terrymott93@gmail.com
<b>Alternate Email</b>	terrymott93@gmail.com

#### Recommendation Information:

<b>Recommendation ID</b>	2025077
<b>Recommendation Title</b>	A Campaign to Save the St. Johns River
<b>Areas Affected</b>	An educational program
<b>Department Affected</b>	Natural Resources Management
<b>Current problem</b>	See the attached form.
<b>Recommendation</b>	A program to save tax dollars. See the attached form.
<b>Attachments</b>	Suggestion from Terry Mott.pdf

Please do not reply to this e-mail, as it will go to an unmonitored mailbox.

Submission from Terry Mott

**Suggestion:** For the Commission to inspire the five entities listed below to work together to create and execute a Stormwater Education Program for the residents of the Viera East Community Development District.

**Entities:**

- o Brevard County Natural Resources (BNR):
- o St Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD)
- o University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS)
- o Viera East Community Development District (VECDD), the taxing authority for Viera East and the sole entity responsible for maintaining the 84 detention ponds in Viera East
- o Viera East Community Association (VECA), the HOA master association for Viera East

**Background Information** (an overview; additional details can be provided):

- o In 2001, my husband and I built our current home in Viera East. Our property abuts a buffer zone and a 4.5 acre detention pond.
- o For about the first 12 years, the VECDD—which is the sole entity responsible for maintaining the 84 detention ponds and littoral shelves in Viera East—allowed vegetation to grow along the littoral shelves of our pond. During that time frame, there was no incline at the edge of the pond. And it was not uncommon for us to have up to 100 birds per day foraging around this 4.5 acre pond.
- o However, shortly thereafter, the VECDD changed its pond maintenance program and killed off all of the vegetation by routine spraying. And that maintenance program has continued through to today for all of the 84 detention ponds in Viera East.

**Issues of Concern:**

- o Over the years, erosion along the edge of the buffer zones has continually increased to the point where we now have a steep incline.
- o The buffer zone has lost footage, and continues to erode each day. Wave energy for properties situated on the west side of the ponds--such as our property--seem to suffer from more erosion due to summer easterly winds.
- o Most of our 84 detention ponds flow into the St. Johns River. And without vegetation to filter pollutants from our yards, those pollutants are flowing unfiltered into that critically important watershed.

Submission from Terry Mott

o With the loss of vegetation along the littoral shelves, the number of birds foraging around our ponds has dramatically reduced over the years.

**Action Taken:**

o A few years ago, I alerted the VECDD of the erosion problem. The VECDD staff came to my home, measured our property and the buffer zone, and confirmed that the buffer zone was losing footage.

o Through a series of many meetings with the VECDD and BNR staff, it was determined that the VECDD kills off all the vegetation along the littoral shelves of these 84 detention ponds because residents don't like to see "weeds" in their backyards.

o The solution to this matter--as determined collectively by BNR and VECDD staff members--was for the BNR to apply to the Florida Department of Environment Protection for a \$50,000 educational grant for the BNR to conduct a stormwater education program for residents of the VECDD.

o Current status: We're still waiting for the BNR to apply for that grant. And in the meantime, the VECDD is still routinely spraying to kill off all vegetation along our 84 ponds..

**Proposed Action Plan:**

o Throughout this process, I've attended several workshops that recommended the best management practices for pond maintenance offered by the entities mentioned above, along with the Marine Resources Council.

o I believe that if these entities could work together and share resources, an online program could be created that may accomplish the mission of educating the VECDD residents enough to understand the importance of allowing vegetation to be maintained along the littoral shelves of our 84 ponds. If our residents understood that the current maintenance program is polluting the St Johns River and--in the long run--diminishing our property values due to erosion, and ultimately creating a flooding hazard for the community, they would not object to seeing "weeds" in their backyards.

o Here's one possible program idea:

oo The BNR or the SJRWMD could organize a Save the St. Johns River Campaign.

oo The Campaign could focus on 3W's: Water~Wildlife~Waste

oo The UF/IFAS recently launched a new pond restoration program for Florida Master Naturalists, and this program could be used to help educate VECDD residents. UF/IFAS staff also offer several online classes.

oo Additionally, the SJRWMD also has an online program for pond maintenance (originally created to educate community association managers, which could easily be tweaked to accommodate this current objective).

**Submission from Terry Mott**

**oo Both the VECDD and the VECA could organize the HOA leadership within the VECDD and work with the other entities to hold training workshops and use their respective websites to further educate our residents.**

**In sum, all the information we need to inspire the VECDD community to adopt best management practices for pond maintenance is readily available if the entities above agree to work together. And I believe the above-mentioned campaign could energize and inspire the entire community to get involved.**