



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## New Business - Development and Environmental Services Group

J.1.

1/28/2025

### Subject:

Ten Appointments to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

### Fiscal Impact:

No Cost

### Dept/Office:

Natural Resources Management

### Requested Action:

It is requested that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) consider confirming the appointment of the applicants selected by the League of Cities for the vacant Economics/Finance Voting Member, Lagoon Commerce Voting Member, Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy Voting Member, and Science Alternate seats; and 2) review applications, resumes and reference letters and rank candidates to fill the County Commission's vacant Science Voting Member, Technology Voting Member, Tourism Voting Member, Economics/Finance Alternate, Lagoon Commerce Alternate, and Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy Alternate and 3) Consider appointment of the top ranked candidates.

### Summary Explanation and Background:

On August 23, 2016, the Board of County Commissioners adopted Ordinance No. 1615 for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan and Trust Fund. The Ordinance called for establishment of a Citizen Oversight Committee (Committee) to make recommendations to the County Commission regarding annual updates to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan that is funded by the half cent Save Our Indian River Lagoon sales tax.

The Citizen Oversight Committee is comprised of 7 voting members, 7 alternates and 2 non-voting, emeritus seats. Originally, the 7 fields of expertise were: Science, Technology, Economics/Finance, Real Estate, Education/Outreach, Tourism, and Lagoon Advocacy. On October 22, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners combined Lagoon Advocacy with Education and Outreach to dedicate a field of expertise to Lagoon Commerce, aimed at engaging citizens who work on the lagoon and experience changing conditions in real-time. The Board also added 2 non-voting, emeritus positions to provide historical knowledge.

Half of the Committee is nominated by the Space Coast League of Cities and half of the Committee is selected by the County Commission, with all seats appointed by the County Commission. Terms are for 2 years, after which members and alternates can be reappointed or replaced. When replacement voting members or alternates are needed, the entity who selected that seat can:

- 1) upgrade the alternate to the member seat,
- 2) choose a replacement from the existing pool of applicants, or

3) request a new call for qualified citizen volunteers.

On October 22, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners re-appointed 6 current members (including 3 of 7 Board seats and 3 of 7 re-appointment requests from the League of Cities). The Board also appointed 2 emeritus positions (1 Board selection and confirmation of 1 selection by the League of Cities) and directed staff to advertise the remaining 8 seats (4 Board seats and 4 League of Cities seats). Advertisements for the remaining vacancies were posted for a month and closed on December 20, 2024.

**Action 1:**

Consider appointment of the following applicants selected by the League of Cities:

- Curt Smith (current Alternate) for the vacant Economics/Finance Voting Member,
- Richard Bankhead for the vacant Lagoon Commerce Voting Member,
- Kimberly Newton (current Alternate) for the vacant Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy Voting Member, and
- Nicholas Sanzone for the Science Alternate seat.

Their applications are attached.

**Action 2:**

Review applications, resumes and reference letters and rank candidates to fill the County Commission's Science Voting Member, Technology Voting Member, Tourism Voting Member, Lagoon Commerce Alternate, Economics/Finance Alternate (if Curt Smith is promoted to the League's voting member seat), and Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy Alternate (if Kimberly Newton is promoted to the League's voting member seat).

For the Board's voting member seat to represent Science, there are eight application packets, including the current Technology Alternate, who is seeking promotion to a voting member seat, and 2 applicants who have been selected by the League of Cities for other seats. If the Board selects the current Technology Alternate to fill this voting member seat, the League of Cities requests that the Board confirm Bruce Larson to backfill their vacant alternate seat.

For the Board's voting member seat to represent Technology, there are nine application packets, including the current Technology Alternate seeking promotion to the voting member seat, and 1 applicant who has been selected by the League of Cities for another seat.

For the Board's voting member seat to represent Tourism, there are three application packets, including the current Tourism Alternate seeking promotion to the voting member seat, and 2 applicants who have been selected by the League of Cities for other seats.

For the Board's alternate to represent Lagoon Commerce, there are four application packets, including 2 applicants who have been selected by the League of Cities for other seats.

For the Board's alternate to represent Economics/Finance Alternate (if Curt Smith is promoted to the League's voting member seat), there are five application packets, including 1 applicant who has been selected by the League of Cities for another seat.

For the Board's alternate to represent Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy Alternate (if Kimberly Newton is promoted to the League's voting member seat), there are eight application packets, including 2 applicants who have been selected by the League of Cities for other seats.

After public comment on this item, a form is attached to use for ranking the applicants for each seat. Assign number 1 to your top ranked candidate, 2 to the second ranked candidate, and 3 to the third ranked candidate. A rank of 4 will be assigned to all remaining candidates. Staff will tabulate the ranking scores during the Board meeting and report the results to the Commission for the Board's consideration in making appointments.

**Action 3:**

Appoint the applicants as directed by Board action and confirm the League of Cities' selection of a backfill candidate for Technology Alternate, if applicable.

**Clerk to the Board Instructions:**

None



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board, 400 South Street • P.O. Box 999, Titusville, Florida 32781-0999

Telephone: (321) 637-2001  
Fax: (321) 264-6972  
Kimberly.Powell@brevardclerk.us

January 29, 2025

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director

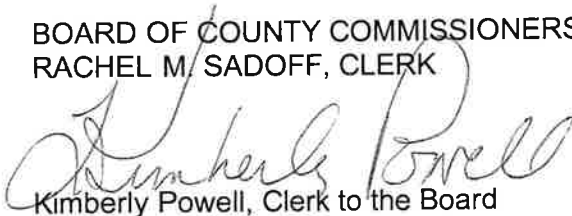
**RE:** Item J.1., Appointments to Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen's Oversight Committee (COC)

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on January 28, 2025, confirmed the appointments of the following to SOIRL COC, selected by the League of Cities: Curt Smith for Economics/Finance, Richard Bankhead for Lagoon Commerce, Kimberly Newton for Lagoon Education and Outreach, Nicholas Sanzone as alternate for Science, and Bruce Larson as alternate for Technology; reviewed applications, resumes, and reference letters and ranked the candidates to fill the County Commission's vacant seats; and appointed the following to SOIRL COC: Donald Deis for Science, Richard Nipper for Technology, Laurilee Thompson for Tourism, Aaron Adams as alternate for Lagoon Commerce, Frederic Goldstein as alternate for Economics/Finance, and Deborah Harmon as alternate for Lagoon Education and Outreach.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK



Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

cc: Each Commissioner  
County Manager  
County Attorney



County Commission Vacancies									
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest	Rank within each Field of Expertise
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>								
	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Technology Alternate</i> )	3	✓	✓					<del>1</del>
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					2
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					3
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					1
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>								
	<b>Deis, Donald (<i>Current Alternate</i>)</b>		✓	✓					
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓					3
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					2
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					1
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>								
	<b>Thompson, Laurilee (<i>Current Alternate</i>)</b>	67	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>									
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					2
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					1
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>								
	<b>Smith, Curt (<i>Current Alternate</i>)</b> ( <i>Selected for LOC Appt.</i> )	37	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					1
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					2
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓					3
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate) Stephany Eley, Charles Venuto, John Windsor TERMS ENDED</b>									
	<b>Newton, Kimberly (<i>Current Alternate</i>)</b>								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					3
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					<del>1</del>
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					2

*Kathy Delaney*  
Katie Delaney

District # PS

Commissioner Signature \_\_\_\_\_

County Commission's Vacant Seats on the SOIRL COC	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Rank within each Field of Expertise
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>				
	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Technology Alternate</i> )	3	✓	✓	1
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓	
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓	
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓	2
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓	
	<i>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</i>	34	✓	✓	
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓	3
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>				
	<b>Deis, Donald (Current Alternate)</b>		✓	✓	2
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓	
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No	
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓	1
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓	
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓	3
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓	
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>				
	<b>Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)</b>	67	✓	✓	1
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	<i>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</i>	34	✓	✓	
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>					
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓	1
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓	2
	<i>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</i>	34	✓	✓	
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>				
	<b>Smith, Curt (Current Alternate)</b>	37	✓	✓	
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓	1
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓	
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	3
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓	2
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate)</b>					
	<b>Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)</b>				
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓	
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓	3
	<i>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</i>	15	✓	✓	
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓	2
	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓	1
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	
	<i>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</i>	34	✓	✓	
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓	

Dir of NATURAL Resources - VIRGINIA BAKER

D3

County Commission Vacancies									
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest	Rank within each Field of Expertise
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>								
✓ 1	Deis, Donald (Current Technology Alternate)	3	✓	✓					1
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
✓ 2	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					2
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
✓ 3	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					3
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>								
✓ 1	Deis, Donald (Current Alternate)		✓	✓					2
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓					
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
✓ 2	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					1
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓					
✓ 3	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					3
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>								
✓ 1	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)	67	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>									
✓ 1	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
✓ 2	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					2
	Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>								
✓	Smith, Curt (Current Alternate) Selected by League	37	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
✓ 2	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					1
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					
✓ 3	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					3
✓ m1	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓					2
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate) Stephany Eley, Charles Venuto, John Windsor TERMS ENDED</b>									
	<b>Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)</b>								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
✓ 3	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓					3
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
✓ 1	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					2
✓ 2	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓					1
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					

Kim D3



County Commission Vacancies									
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest	Rank within each Field of Expertise
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>								
1	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Technology Alternate</i> )	3	✓	✓					1
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
2	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					2
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
3	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					3
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>								
3	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )		✓	✓					3
1	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓					1
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
2	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					2
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>								
1	Thompson, Laurilee ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )	67	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>									
1	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					1
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
2	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					2
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>								
	Smith, Curt ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )	37	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
1	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					1
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					
3	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					3
2	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓					2
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate) Stephany Eley, Charles Venuto, John Windsor TERMS ENDED</b>									
	<b>Newton, Kimberly (<i>Current Alternate</i>)</b>								
3	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					3
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
2	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					2
1	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓					1
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					

County Commission Vacancies									
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest	Rank within each Field of Expertise
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>								
	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Technology Alternate</i> ) 1	3	✓	✓					
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Nipper, Richard 2	36	✓	✓					
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark 3	23	✓	✓					
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>								
	Deis, Donald ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )		✓	✓					
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓					
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce 3	50	✓	✓					
	Nipper, Richard 1	36	✓	✓					
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark 2	23	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>								
	Thompson, Laurilee ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )	67	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>									
	Adams, Aaron 1	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve 2	5	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>								
	Smith, Curt ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )	37	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic 1	3	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve 2	5	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce 3	50	✓	✓					
	Spellman, Carol 2	3	✓	✓					
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate) Stephany Eley, Charles Venuto, John Windsor TERMS ENDED</b>									
	Newton, Kimberly ( <i>Current Alternate</i> )								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bailey, Stel 1	30	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard ( <i>Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce</i> )	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic 2	3	✓	✓					
	Harmon, Deborah 3	10	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Sanzone, Nicholas ( <i>Selected by the League for Science</i> )	34	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					

Space Coast League of Cities Vacancies								
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest
<b>Economics/Finance (Member)</b>								
	Smith, Curt (Current Alternate)	37	✓	✓				*
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓				
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Member)</b>								
	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Tourism Alt)	67	✓	✓				
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				*
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Member) - New Combined</b>								
	Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)	7	✓	✓				*
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓				
<b>Science (Alternate)</b>								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓				
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				*
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓				
<b>Technology (Alternate) (Alternate Seat will be Vacant if Don Deis promoted to vacant Member seat)</b>								
	Deis, Don (Current Alternate)	3	✓	✓				
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓				
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				*
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓				
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓				
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓				
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓				
<b>Tourism (Alternate) (Alternate Seat will be Vacant Laurilee Thompson promoted to vacant Member Seat)</b>								
	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)	67	✓	✓				*
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				



## Rank Tally

County Commission's Vacant Seats on the SOIRL COC	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	Sum	Rank
<b>Science (Member)</b>	<b>Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED</b>										
	<b>Deis, Donald (Current Technology Alternate)</b>	3	✓	✓	4	1	1	1	1	8	★
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓	2	4	4	4	4	18	
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓	4	4	4				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓	3	4	4	4	4	19	
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓	4	2	2	2	2	12	
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓	4	4	4	4	4	20	
	<del>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</del>	34	✓	✓							
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓	1	3	3	3	3		
<b>Technology (Member)</b>	<b>Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED</b>										
	<b>Deis, Donald (Current Alternate)</b>		✓	✓	4	3	1	4	2	14	
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓	3	1	4	4	4	16	
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No	4	4	4	4	4	20	
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓							
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	4	4	4	3	4	19	
	<b>Nipper, Richard</b>	36	✓	✓	2	2	2	1	1	8	★
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓	4	4	4	4	4	20	
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓	4	4	3	2	3	16	
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓	1	4	4	4	4	17	
<b>Tourism (Member)</b>	<b>Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts</b>										
	<b>Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)</b>	67	✓	✓	1	1	1	1	1	5	★
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓							
	<del>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</del>	34	✓	✓							
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)</b>											
	<b>Adams, Aaron</b>	11	✓	✓	2	1	1	1	1	6	★
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓							
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓	1	2	2	2	2	9	
	<del>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</del>	34	✓	✓							
<b>Economics/Finance (Alternate)</b>	<b>Todd Swingle TERM ENDED</b>										
	<b>Smith, Curt (Current Alternate)</b>	37	✓	✓							
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓							
	<b>Goldstein, Frederic</b>	3	✓	✓	4	1	2	1	1	9	★
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓	1	4	4	2	4	15	
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	2	3	3	3	3	14	
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓	2	2	1	4	2	12	
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate)</b>											
	<b>Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)</b>										
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓	4	4	4	4	4	20	
	<b>Bailey, Stel</b>	30	✓	✓	1	3	3	3	3	11	—
	<del>Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)</del>	15	✓	✓							
	<b>Goldstein, Frederic</b>	3	✓	✓	4	2	1	2	2	11	—
	<b>Harmon, Deborah</b>	10	✓	✓	4	1	2	3	1	11	—
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓	3	4	4	4	4	15	
	<del>Sanzone, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)</del>	34	✓	✓							
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓	2	4	4	4	4	18	

County Commission Vacancies		Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest	Rank within each field of Expertise
Order of Categories	Applicant Name								
Science (Member)	Lorraine Koss TERM ENDED								
	Deis, Donald (Current Technology Alternate)	3	✓	✓					
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓					
	Sanzane, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					
Technology (Member)	Vinnie Taranto TERM ENDED								
	Deis, Donald (Current Alternate)		✓	✓					
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓					
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓					
	Roesler, Joachim (Dr)	0	✓	✓					
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					
Tourism (Member)	Bobby Putnam declined renewal due to work schedule conflicts								
	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)	67	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Sanzane, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Alternate)									
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					
	Sanzane, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
Economics/Finance (Alternate)	Todd Swingle TERM ENDED								
	Smith, Curt (Current Alternate)	37	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓					
Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Alternate) Stephany Eley, Charles Venuto, John Windsor TERMS ENDED									
	Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓					
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓					
	Bankhead, Richard (Selected by the League for Lagoon Commerce)	15	✓	✓					
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓					
	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓					
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓					
	Sanzane, Nicholas (Selected by the League for Science)	34	✓	✓					
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓					



Space Coast League of Cities Vacancies								
Order of Categories	Applicant Name	Resident - # of Years	Reference	Resume	Interest	Experience	Character	Public Interest
<b>Economics/Finance (Member)</b>								
	Smith, Curt (Current Alternate)	37	✓	✓				*
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				
	Spellman, Carol	3	✓	✓				
<b>Lagoon Commerce - New Category (Member)</b>								
	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Tourism Alt)	67	✓	✓				
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				*
	Justice, Steve	5	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				
<b>Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy (Member) - New Combined</b>								
	Newton, Kimberly (Current Alternate)	7	✓	✓				*
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bailey, Stel	30	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Harmon, Deborah	10	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓				
<b>Science (Alternate)</b>								
	Adams, Aaron	11	✓	✓				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Goldstein, Frederic	3	✓	✓				
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓				
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				*
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓				
<b>Technology (Alternate) (Alternate Seat will be Vacant if Don Deis promoted to vacant Member seat)</b>								
	Deis, Don (Current Alternate)	3	✓	✓				
	Aguinaga, Gary	32	✓	✓				
	Andreski, Charles	20	No	No				
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Larson, Bruce	50	✓	✓				*
	Nipper, Richard	36	✓	✓				
	Roesler, Joachim	0	✓	✓				
	Schrope, Mark	23	✓	✓				
	Sullivan, Sandra	13	✓	✓				
<b>Tourism (Alternate) (Alternate Seat will be Vacant Laurilee Thompson promoted to vacant Member Seat)</b>								
	Thompson, Laurilee (Current Alternate)	67	✓	✓				*
	Bankhead, Richard	15	✓	✓				
	Sanzone, Nicholas	34	✓	✓				

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

	Curt		Smith
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

curt.smith@brevardfl.gov

Email Address

4457 Coquina Ridge Dr

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Melbourne

City

FL

State

32935

Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 591-6557

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

35 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ N/A

---

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Economics/Finance

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

Lagoon Advocate

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

See Bio

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I believe 8 years as a County Commissioner and ditto as IRL Board Chair speaks volumes

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

I have always said, to leave feelings out of the equation and base things on details, needs, common sense, and expert data

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Former Vice Chair of The Brevard County Commission and Former Chair of The Indian River Lagoon Board, Curt is known as a fiscal conservative with 40 years of small business experience

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following**In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \*

☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[IRLNEP Letter of Support Curt Smith.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

November 18th, 2022 will be my last day as Chair of The IRL & 1st day of my so-called Retirement

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Former Brevard County Commissioner

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

Former Brevard County Commissioner and IRL Chair

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

No

[Commissioner Curt Smith Biography 2022.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

---

## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### **Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

### **Biography**

Curt Smith is the Vice Chairman of the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, serving his second term as District 4 Commissioner. He was first elected in 2014 and re-elected in 2018 running as a fiscal conservative from the private sector with 40 years of small business and entrepreneurial experience. Curt and his wife Linda owned and operated an auto painting franchise in Melbourne for almost 27 years before retiring at the end of 2013.

Growing up in Pennsville, a little town in southern New Jersey on the Delaware River, Commissioner Smith developed his deep love of nature and being on and in the water of the river. Often called "The Cradle of Liberty", he credits the Delaware Valley for his deep love of God and country. Curt and his family have been residents of Melbourne, FL since 1986.

Curt is an alumnus of the University of Miami and the SAE fraternity. He has always been civic-minded. Commissioner Smith serves on the Central Florida Expressway Authority, the Election Canvassing Board, Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization, and is Chairman for both the Indian River Lagoon Council and Value Adjustment Board. He also supports the local Little League teams, Habitat for Humanity, Making Strides Against Breast Cancer, Dove Bible Club, Rotary International, Rolling Readers, Meals on Wheels, and others. Commissioner Smith has sat on the Indian River Lagoon Board for both his terms as Commissioner, serving as Chair and known as the Commission advocate for the Lagoon.



November 17, 2022

Subject: SOIRL Citizen Oversight Committee

The IRLNEP supports the appointment of Curt Smith to the finance seat of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Citizen Advisory Committee. Curt's tenure on the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and his leadership representing the county on the IRL Council Board of Directors and Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program would bring a wealth of financial and budget experience to the COC.

Sincerely,

Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, IRL Council and Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program  
321.313.0764  
[ddefreese@irlcouncil.org](mailto:ddefreese@irlcouncil.org)

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

**Mr.**

Prefix

**Dick**

First Name

**B**Middle  
Initial**Bankhead**

Last Name

**dick.bankhead@gmail.com**

Email Address

**102 Riverside Drive, unit 201**

Home Address

Suite or Apt

**cocoa**

City

**FL**

State

**32922**

Postal Code

**Home: (253) 350-9850**

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

15 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ N/A

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Economics/Finance
- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- ☒ Lagoon Commerce
- ☒ Technology
- ☒ Real Estate
- ☒ Tourism

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

It is extremely critical that it be successful as the Lagoon represents one of the largest unique assets of our County. It depicts a spectacular series of waterways connected by causeways and bridges and its beauty must be maintained. It is a recreational source for boating and fishing that provides miles of open water to the public that must be preserved.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

I lived in Cocoa and attended Cocoa High School in the late 50's and early 60's and was able to thoroughly enjoy the pristine clear condition of the Lagoon. Water skiing and duck hunting while exploring was my primary recreation. I went to Clemson earning a degree in Electrical Engineering, then joined the US Marines serving in Vietnam, injured in combat receiving a Purple Heart, Taught at United States Naval academy for two years. Had a 25 year career with Weyerhaeuser Corp. rising to Vice President, Engineering. Was on Engineering Advisory Committee for the University of Washington in Seattle and on the Board of Directors, YMCA , Auburn, Washington. I am an outdoorsman in retirement, fishing and hunting and own a 175 acre tree farm in Sharon, South Caroling in addition to homes on Lake Okeechobee, Lake Poinsett and the Lagoon in Cocoa Village.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I have a very strong background in handling extremely sensitive projects with Weyerhaeuser in charge of planning, cost schedule and construction of large wood products facilities and large residential developments in many cases dealing with very high level executives on a daily basis.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

My only interest in serving on the Board is to get the Lagoon back to its pristine state.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Cocoa High Graduate, Clemson Graduate, Electrical Engineer, US Marine Captain, Vietnam combat, Purple Heart recipient, 25 year career with Weyerhaeuser, Vice President. Engineering, extensive environmental experience. University of Washington Engineering Advisory Council, Board of Directors Auburn Washington YMCA., City of Cocoa Sustainability Committee, City of Cocoa Police Chief Selection Committee .

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following**In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \*

- ☒ Email  
☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Mike Blake Reference Letter SOIRL.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

City of Cocoa Sustainability Committee, .

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Avid fisherman and tree grower, owning homes on Lake Poinsett, Lake Okeechobee and 175 acre tree farm in Sharon, South Carolina. I have observed the deterioration and rebirth of our Indian Rive Lagoon first hand and will help where possible to contribute to it's success.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

Cocoa High graduate, Clemson University graduate, Electrical Engineer, 25 year career with Weyerhaeuser Vice President Engineering. Responsible for capital projects from 500 million to 1 billion dollars per year. Approximately 25% of these funds were on environmental projects. ,

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

none

[SOIRL\\_12\\_14\\_DB.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Mr. Dick B Bankhead

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

---

☒ I Agree



Resume of Richard Bankhead:

Believe the project skills developed in my past experiences can be utilized in SOIRL

Education:

Cocoa High School, Clemson University, BS Electrical Engineer

Work Experience: (registered engineer)

Saturn project, Kennedy Space Center

United States Marine Corp, Officer Candidate School, Vietnam Platoon Commander,  
Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart. Instructor United States Naval Academy.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT ACROSS NORTH AMERICA, PROGRESSING FROM FIELD  
ENGINEER TO PROJECT MANAGER.

VICE PRESIDENT ,ENGINEERING, WEYERHAEUSER CO. (TREE GROWING COMPANY) MANAGED 3  
OFFICES, 200 EMPLOYEES, MAIN PROJECTS \$500,000,000 TO \$1 BILLION PER YEAR. APPROXIMATELY  
20% ENVIRONMENTAL. RESPONSIBLE COST, SCHEDULE, IMPLEMENTATION, STARTUP.

PROJECTS INCLUDED LARGE RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENTS. LARGE MANUFACTURING  
FACILITIES, ENVIRONMENT PROJECTS, WOOD PRODUCTS FACILITIES.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ENGINEERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE, SEATTLE, WA.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AUBURN YMCA, WA

SCOUTMASTER, BOY SCOUTS

RETIRED:

170 ACRE SOUTH CAROLINA TREE FARM, OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

FLORIDA REAL ESTATE:

PLACES ON INDIAN RIVER, ST. JOHNS RIVER AND LAKE OKEECHOBEE.

FLY FISHING, INDIAN RIVER , OKEECHOBEE AND ST JOHNS RIVER

COMMITTEES FOR CITY OF COCOA:

SUSTAINABILITY

POLICE CHIEF SELECTION





Office of the Mayor  
65 Stone Street | Cocoa, FL 32922  
Phone: (321) 474-1758 | Fax: (321) 433-8455

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Richard Bankhead for a position on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Board. I have had the privilege of working closely with Richard over the years and can confidently attest to his exceptional professional background, dedication, and integrity.

Richard's extensive experience in cost control and financial management has been a key asset in successfully managing and delivering high-impact projects across North America. He has consistently demonstrated a unique ability to enhance the financial effectiveness of projects, ensuring not only their timely completion but also that they remain within budget, all while exceeding performance expectations. This proficiency will undoubtedly be a tremendous asset to the SOIRL Board.

Throughout his distinguished career, Richard has held numerous leadership roles, including serving as Vice President of Weyerhaeuser Co., and as a member of the University of Washington Engineering Advisory Committee. His contributions to these organizations have been invaluable, especially in the areas of construction management and cost control. Richard's leadership experience also extends to his military service, where he served as a Vietnam Platoon Commander in the U.S. Marine Corps and earned several prestigious honors, including the Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart.

In addition to his professional and military accomplishments, Richard is deeply committed to his community. He has served as the Board of Directors member for the Auburn YMCA and has been a Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts. Currently, he is an active member of the Sustainability Board for the City of Cocoa. His passion for community service and his understanding of environmental sustainability will contribute to the strategic goals of SOIRL as it works to preserve and improve the quality of our natural resources.

Richard is a graduate of Cocoa High School and Clemson University, where he earned a BS in Electrical Engineering. His broad skill set, combined with his practical experience, makes him a highly qualified candidate for the SOIRL Board. As a retired professional, he is also deeply invested in preserving the environment and enhancing the quality of life for future generations.

In addition to his professional and public service roles, Richard enjoys fly fishing and owns real estate on the Indian River, St. Johns River, and Lake Okeechobee, underscoring his personal connection to the very areas SOIRL seeks to serve and protect.

I believe Richard's expertise, leadership, and commitment to our community will be a great asset to the SOIRL Board. I highly recommend him for this position without reservation and am confident he will bring both practical insight and a positive, solution-oriented approach to your team.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you need any additional information or clarification.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Blake  
Mayor  
City of Cocoa



## SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting applications for four seats on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Volunteers are sought to represent four fields of expertise: Education/Outreach, Real Estate, Tourism and Technology.

### Basic Requirements and Duties of Oversight Committee Members

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in one or more of the following fields: real estate or tourism. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$486 million from sales tax revenue to **Reduce** pollution sources to the lagoon, **Remove** legacy pollution from the lagoon, **Restore** natural systems within the lagoon, and **Respond** to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

Applications with resumes and letters of recommendation or endorsement should be submitted no later than **December 27, 2018**. The Space Coast League of Cities will review applications for Real Estate and Tourism expertise on **January 14, 2019**. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will review applications for Technology and Education/Outreach expertise and finalize all four appointments at their regular meeting on **January 22, 2019**.

As part of the application process the Board of County Commissioners requires each applicant to answer in writing each of the following questions:

**Name** Kimberly Newton

**Mailing Address** 350 Pine Tree Drive

**City, State, Zip Code** Indialantic, Florida 32903

**Phone** 407-399-2253

**Email** EcoEarthFriends@gmail.com

Please complete the following questions and statements.

1. Do you reside in Brevard County Yes ☒ No ☐ Number of Years 2.5
2. Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings? Yes ☒ No ☐

3. Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise:

- ☐ Science    ☐ Economics/Finance    ☒ Education/Outreach    ☒ Lagoon Advocacy  
☐ Technology    ☐ Real Estate    ☐ Tourism

**FOR THE QUESTIONS BELOW, RESPONSES MAY BE UP TO ½ PAGE EACH  
AND ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NEEDED**

4. Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee

There are several reasons why I have decided to apply to serve on this board. The most pressing issue to me, that really motivated my submitting an application, is that I have spent my entire life playing and enjoying the waters of Brevard County and I truly want to do as much as I can to insure that we restore the lagoon to the amazing habitat it truly is. Myself, with my family, have spent the greater part of this year already out in the community educating and talking with people about the issues of the IRL, and how each one of us can and must do our part to stop pollutants and work toward restoration together. We have had endless positive feedback and support, as well as had the opportunity to educate individuals how they can accomplish this goal. I believe a position on this board in either education or advocacy will continue to provide an opportunity to educate and work in the restoration efforts.

Secondarily, I know that I have served well on other community boards and that I am able to look at circumstances and proposals in a non-biased manor, for the greater good of our lagoon and our community.

5. Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

There have been many opportunities to become involved with understanding the current state of, and needed plans to restore our IRL.

The following is a list of our local organizations and programs that I am currently involved with that have a direct connection to the lagoon restoration.

1. Member of the Brevard Sustainability Working Group, meeting out of Brevard County IFAS Extension Office
2. The Litter Quitter program with the Brevard Zoo and Keep Brevard Beautiful
3. The Lagoon Literacy program with the Marine Resources Council, this program presents information about the IRL and current issues and resolutions to community groups from elementary schools to seniors.
4. Muck Finders with the Marine Resources Council. I have been out on two separate data gathering boat trips to measure and record muck data in the lagoon.
5. Member of the Executive Board for ReThink Energy Brevard
6. Co-Founder of Eco Earth Friends, an educational organization that educates the community at events and one on one about the current issues facing our lagoon and how we

6. Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

Understanding that this committee is designed to over see and account for the delegation of the restoration efforts for an entire community is most relevant.

My personal strengths include excellent listening skills. I have practical training in this area through counseling and advocacy training in my professional work as an advocate and liaison with seniors and caregivers.

As well, I have literal experience as a board member for several organizations that have repeatedly asked me to retain my position from term to term, specifically for my delegation and group communication skills.

Also relevant for a position on a group committee, I am an excellent judge of character, however, even when one has questionable motives, I never let that get in the way of giving anyone the full right to speak and be heard as permitted by any bylaws that are in place to give them that right. Even when we disagree with a point being made, it is most always that you can still find useful information to work toward a compromise and mitigate any unnecessary conflict.

~~This also allows for a consistent diplomatic approach to issues at hand.~~

7. Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.

This committee has been established to speak and act on behalf of Brevard County. Over the past 3-4 years as I have become extremely involved in advocacy for our IRL, I have had the opportunity to speak with and hear many of our residents concerns and ideas about how the lagoon has become so polluted and how we can fix it.

In this time I have heard many conflicting ideas for both.

However, the consistent thread in everyone's story is the passion for moving forward to clean our Lagoon. This passion, it is what will continue to drive us in the correct direction while we continue to evaluate project ideas and gather data back from test projects, such as new grasses, oyster restoration, possible new inlets, continued and additional dredging...

Whether it was the commercial clam fisheries or a mishandled infrastructure that one believes caused the deterioration of the Lagoon, we must represent the greater good for the entire County, and be able to learn from our successes and failures and try again as we go.

An understanding that this is a long road and that the driving passion for all of us is to restore our Indian River Lagoon will most likely fuel some conflict and disagreements,

~~however, staying true to the greater good for our entire community will keep the integrity and~~

### **Additional Requirements**

In addition to completing the application posted at <http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon>, a resume and at least one letter of recommendation are required. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization.

**Send your application, resumé, and letter(s) of reference to:**

Natural Resources Management Department, Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director

[Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov)

Phone: 321-633-2016

Kimberly Newton  
350 Pine Tree Drive  
Indialantic, Florida 32903  
407-399-2253  
[EcoEarthFriends@gmail.com](mailto:EcoEarthFriends@gmail.com)

2018 Co-Founder Eco Earth Friends

2010- present Elder and Caregiver Advocate and Community Educator Presenter

2015- present Elder Ambassador, Orange County Office on Aging

2016-2017 Art Teacher for The Memories in the Making Program, with the Alzheimer's Association

2015, 2018 Community Education and Speaker Training, with The Conversation Project

2018 Caregiver Support Group Leader for two support groups in Brevard County, Traumatic Brain Injury Survivor Caregiver support, and Elder and Adult Children with Disabilities Support Group

2014 Statement of Accomplishment, with Distinction from the University of Copenhagen in Global Health; \*NOTE: this program covered environmental health and issues including detailed issues of water quality and restoration efforts

2005-2007 Accudata Market Research, Research Interviewer for demographic statistical data gathering for marketing firms

2007-2009 Elementary Educator and Middle School, Ethics teacher

Greetings Ms. Gerundo,

It is my pleasure to write to you today on behalf of a candidate for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee, Kimberly Newton.

I have had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Newton through my work as a Program Director for IDEAS For Us, an Orlando-based, environmentally-focussed non-profit and believe that she would be an excellent selection for this committee.

Over the years, I have found her to be a passionate and consistent volunteer, a well informed communicator and citizen educator. In workshop settings, she not only contributes meaningful insights, but encourages others, often coaxing information and ideas out of those who may be more shy or hesitant to participate. In her passion for a sustainable future, Ms. Newton stays engaged and active in the community, while encouraging and empowering others to engage as well.

Her passion for a sustainable future may be most clearly evident in the way she has educated and empowered her sons to be leaders in this movement, supporting them in establishing Eco Earth Friends in order to take (and inspire) action for clean/healthy eco-systems.

Please feel welcome to reach out for any clarification or additional details.

All the Best,  
Sharon Hammond  
Program Director, The IDEAS Hive  
[Sharon.Hammond@IDEASforUs.org](mailto:Sharon.Hammond@IDEASforUs.org)  
407-405-4092

**CITY OF SATELLITE BEACH, FLORIDA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

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**565 Cassia Boulevard 32937-3116  
Satellite Beach, FL 32937  
(321) 773-4409  
FAX: (321) 777-6619  
12/28/18**



Dear Indian River Lagoon Committee,

In reference to Kimberly Newtons application to be on your committee. I have had the opportunity to work with her at numerous events focusing on sustainability and stewardship activities. She has inspired and educated her kids to become environmental advocates as well and together they created the organization Eco Earth Friends. Her concern for the environment has led her to value facts and the scientific process to determine the correct course of action. She is already involved in multiple events, boards, and organizations. If you select her to be on your committee you will have an asset in Kimberly Newton.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Sanzone  
Satellite Beach Environmental Programs Coordinator

**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Nicholas	F	Sanzone
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

nicholasfranksanzone@gmail.com

Email Address

1539 Croftwood Drive	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Melbourne	FL	32935
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 213-2879	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

34

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- ☒ Lagoon Commerce
- ☒ Tourism



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I was born and raised in Brevard County, I grew up on the water and have a deep personal connection to this area and the lagoon. I dedicated myself to understanding our lagoon ecosystem and went to the University of Florida where I received my Bachelors of Science with a degree in Soil and Water Science. After working for the National Parks in Florida for 2 years I went to work for the Marine Resources Council where I helped rally the community to vote for the 1/2 cent sales tax that funds the Save Our Indian River Lagoon program. I then went to work for the City of Satellite Beach where I worked as the Environmental Programs Coordinator, educating the community about how they can use good environmental stewardship practices to reduce their individual impact to the lagoon. I also created stormwater improvement projects to reduce municipal runoff into the lagoon. The last project I worked on while at the City of Satellite beach was a 1-acre seagrass, clam and oyster project where we tested the feasibility of the area to determine if was suitable to sustain the growth of these keystone lagoon species. In my life I have seen the lagoon change and I have been part if its restoration, I believe that serving on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee is the next step in my efforts to help the lagoon be brought back to the health I knew as a child swimming in its waters.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

My education at the University of Florida focused on understanding Florida's biological systems. I graduated in 2010 with a Bachelor of Science with a degree in Soil and Water Science. I my more than a decade of professional experience I have planted native species of upland and benthic plants, from mangroves to seagrasses and more. My work with oysters and clams is extensive, including working with some of the best environmental scientists working on the lagoon. I worked for local eco tour companies as a Environmental Narrator. With the National Parks I conducted water quality data collection and community outreach, with the Marine Resources Council I continued environmental outreach and water quality analysis adding mangrove propagation and planting of shorelines along the lagoon, and with the City of Satellite Beach I continued environmental outreach and planting shorelines adding planting oysters clams and seagrasses to my skillset. I have created and run environmental outreach events with local partners such as the City of Melbourne, Keep Brevard Beautiful, Surfrider and the National Estuary program. I have volunteered and recruited volunteers; I have personally galvanized over 100,000 hours of community volunteer hours with over 500 people in the past decade. All of my life I have dedicated myself to understanding the lagoon and the issues it faces. I understand the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP). I will be an advocate to renew the plan in 2026 and believe I will be most effective in getting the 1/2 cent sales tax renewed if I am more involved as part of this committee.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

As someone who worked in government for over 6 years and worked in public facing positions I understand the decorum, character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building that is required to be a beneficial member of a committee, team, board, and community. I currently serve as a member of the Brevard Marine Advisory committee, I also serve on the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway Committee, and the Keep Brevard Beautiful South Action Team. My scientific education background combined with my experience on board and my experience engaging with the public has given me the opportunity to build a character that is calm and reserved, that listens and reserves judgement until facts and perspectives have been presented. I take my time to review and reflect before offering a perspective on a way forward to solving problems and create solutions. My judgement is based on my understanding of data utilizing both analytical and spatial reasoning; by working in the field, I understand the difficulty in quantifying the specifics of a project in a shifting environment. Determining success in a context that is clear and easy to understand for citizens and scientists alike. My strengths are in outreach and communication using simple analogies and stories to communicate and build group consensus, so that together we can create agenda items that move us further towards our goal of a healthy lagoon ecosystem, increasing the quality of life for everyone and everything living in the lagoon ecosystem.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

The health of the lagoon is a common good that is a metaphorical rising tide that lifts all ships. I see it as the foundation cornerstone for the quality of life for all people living along the lagoon and in Brevard County. Committee members putting public interests first is of the highest importance when making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds. Concerning the real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations related to this committee, I see no situation where I would not recuse myself from voting on or recommending potential conflict. As a board member serving on multiple boards for over six years I understand how to handle these situations. I would reveal any conflict of interest as soon as a proposed agenda item or expenditure recommendation is raised by the committee.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

I was born in Melbourne, Florida in 1984. Growing up on the Indian River Lagoon swimming, boating, kayaking, and fishing I have always felt a deep connection to the waters of the lagoon. After a grade school field trip to the Barrier Island Center, Maritime Hammock Sanctuary, I knew that I wanted to become an environmental scientist and to better understand the lagoon. I wanted to give back to the land and water that gave me so much joy. After graduating from the University of Florida in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Soil and Water Science I was ready to start my career. I have worked for Florida National Parks, The Nature Conservancy, The Marine Resources Council and the City of Satellite Beach. I created LagoonLife.org as an environmental consulting business to continue to connect others to nature and promote good stewardship of the lagoon. I serve on multiple boards in the community including the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway and the Brevard Marine Advisory council. I enjoy being involved in the community and working together to protect the environment and be of service to others.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following**In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \*

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[SOIRLCOC\\_Nicholas\\_Sanzone\\_2024.docx](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

I am currently Serving on the Brevard Marine Advisory Council

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

no

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Growing up in Brevard both as a boater and as a young environmental scientist, I formed a personal connection to the lagoon and with that a responsibility to care for this environment that has given me so much joy and fond memories. Now as an environmental professional I have served on multiple boards related to the lagoon for the last few years and have found the experience to be rewarding and educational. Being on these boards allows me to give back to the lagoon and the community that I love. I am interested in participating in this board in order to protect and restore the lagoon and I have personal and professional experiences that will directly aid me in doing so. My other interests include, taking care of my friends and family, playing music, going surfing, fishing, kayaking, hiking, and volunteering.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I received my Bachelor of Science from the University of Florida in 2010. Most recently I have worked for the Marine Resources Council and for the City of Satellite Beach as the Environmental Programs coordinator. I currently work for the Sebastian River Area Chamber of Commerce as the Tourism Director. I serve on the Indian River Lagoon National Scenic Byway. I have lived on the lagoon and have been a boater my whole life. I understand the economic, social and environmental benefits of the lagoon. My background applies directly the function of this board, I have implemented restoration projects and worked with thousands of volunteers over my career to achieve a respected standing in the community and of my peers. I also host two events every year with a team of committee members, the Indian River Lagoon Day in Melbourne and the Florida Friendly Landscaping Seminar. These experiences aid me in my ability to work with others and will provide me with the abilities needed to be a functional and beneficial member of this committee.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

no

[Nicholas\\_Sanzone\\_MRC\\_2023\\_2\\_.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### **Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

**Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience**  
9505 Ocean Shore Boulevard  
St. Augustine, FL 32080-8610  
904-461-4000  
904-461-4052 Fax

Re: Letter of Recommendation  
Mr. Nicholas F. Sanzone

December 14, 2024

Dear members of the Committee,

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today in support of Mr. Nicholas Sanzone's application for the Brevard County Save our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I have known Mr. Sanzone for over 10 years in a professional capacity as we are colleagues in IRL restoration projects and share alumni status from the University of Florida's Soil and Water Sciences Department.

I first met Mr. Sanzone while he was completing his academic preparation at UF and knew him to be very enthusiastic and active student in my Department. I always enjoyed our interactions as he is quite insightful scientifically and has a passion for discovery and understanding of the natural world, a characteristic still quite evident today. Perhaps more relevant to the position he is applying for here, Nick has a way of finding the good/ humor/ fun in almost any circumstance or situation. This, in turn, means he has a very positive outward persona and magnetic personality for students and faculty alike. In fact, many faculty hold him in high regard for his positive, upbeat attitude and lively contributions to the classroom.

As his application articulates, Mr. Sanzone has accomplished much in the time he has worked on the lagoon. His role as Principle Investigator and project manager for the Samson Island Submerged Lands Restoration project highlights his leadership and organizational prowess, as well as his exceptional communication skills. Over the years, Nick has built an impressive network of collaborators that have come together under his guidance to participate in his restoration vision, one which has garnered him immense recognition among the restoration community. His hard work and dedication are not only evidenced by his reputation among colleagues, but also by his recent nomination for a county wide leadership award (4 under 40) that honors early career leaders who have contributed significantly to their community.

While Mr. Sanzone's application speaks to his significant experience in the IRL and leadership in his community, I think it important here to describe the more intangible qualities he possesses that make him an ideal candidate for the Executive Director position. Beyond being highly organized and prepared for such a position as this, Nick possesses character traits that are not learned in school or on the job. The most of important of these is his positive, energetic personality. I have witnessed Nick in both social and professional settings where he engages people from all backgrounds with an attitude of inclusion, friendliness, and infectious humor. He is a natural communicator with well-developed oratory skills that have been honed through significant experience giving presentations, guiding field tours, and facilitating groups. Moreover, Nick is at ease in the role of leader and communicator as evidenced by his demeanor when presenting to large groups, one of the more challenging tasks we undertake when engaging the public en mass. I cannot over emphasize how well his energetic personality and positive attitude engage others and put people at ease quickly. This attribute alone makes him an outstanding candidate for this position.

On a more personal note, I would describe Nicholas as honest, determined, reliable, and hardworking; all hallmark characteristics of individuals that can successfully navigate the professional and political arenas where he will be working. More important still is his amiable personality and trustworthy nature which enable him to quickly build rapport with others, from volunteers to professionals, in any setting. I feel he has tremendous potential to fulfill the mission of the SOIRLCOC and will contribute greatly as a member of your team. I recommend him for the position of committee member without reservation.

For the reasons outlined above, I highly recommend Nicholas F. Sanzone be given the opportunity to apply his passion and exceptional creativity to the mission of the SOIRLCOC. It will be an investment with high returns to grant Mr. Sanzone the opportunity to put his energy, enthusiasm, and personality to work for the greater good of the Indian River Lagoon. If there is any way in which I may help you further in making your decision, please do not hesitate to contact me by one of the means below.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Osborne', followed by a long horizontal line.

Todd Z. Osborne, Ph.D.  
Associate Professor  
Estuarine Biogeochemistry  
Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience  
University of Florida

osbornet@ufl.edu  
352-256-3826  
9505 N Ocean Shore Blvd.  
St. Augustine, FL 32080

**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Mr.	Donald	R.	Deis
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

donder.deis@gmail.com  
Email Address

1456 Ballinton Drive	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Melbourne	FL	32940
City	State	Postal Code

Home: (904) 704-6992	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

3 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ N/A

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Technology



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

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I have worked for many years on projects within the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) system. I originally worked on the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) back in the 1990s and on the Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs). Those are the reason for the development of the original Save Our Indian River Lagoon plan, i.e. to fund the projects on the plans. In that time, I studied the seagrasses and water quality within the system through the die-off. As I retired from my profession as an estuarine/marine ecologist, I looked for opportunities to stay involved in the IRL restoration. I have served for two years on the Citizens Oversight Committee in an alternate position and would like to move into a voting position. I am in a unique position of having been involved in the COC and am ready to take on a more involved role. The passage of the tax to fund the SOIRL effort demonstrates how much a healthy IRL system means to the citizens of Brevard County. Transparent oversight of those funds is required to demonstrate proper use of those funds. I know that I have been and can be of knowledgeable assistance in providing that oversight.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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I have a Masters degree in marine/estuarine ecology from Florida Atlantic University. For my Masters thesis, I studied the effect of a wastewater outfall on the organisms within Lake Worth Lagoon water quality and benthic community). I also did an independent study of wastewater treatment practices in Palm Beach County and the proposed future for wastewater treatment practices. This has made me very aware of eutrophication in lagoonal systems within Florida. The following 1978 – 1985 – Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Biologist 1985 – 1992 – Continental Shelf Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager 1992 – 1996 – KBN Engineering/Golder Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager 1996 – 2023 – Atkins North America/SNC Lavalin, Inc., Vice President/Principal Scientist (now AtkinsRealis an 80,000 person, worldwide science and engineering firm. I was a principal technical profession and project manager.) I worked for 45 years in the environmental science field as a consultant to industry and government. My areas of interest included environmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring of marine, estuarine, and coastal projects; restoration of estuarine and marine ecosystems; impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and transport; disaster response planning; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) related to disasters; and environmental rules and regulation. During his career, I worked on many of the large restoration programs in Florida and around the U.S. including Everglades Restoration, Mississippi River delta area restoration, Missouri River, and The Deepwater Horizon oil spill NRDA. I have authored or coauthored many technical reports and published several papers in my areas of interest. I have volunteered on citizen advisory boards advising the county commission on comprehensive development plans and project compliance. I am currently volunteering with the Brevard Zoo on water quality monitoring, seagrass, oyster, clam, and other IRL related projects. In “retirement”, I have been donating his time towards grants working with Brevard Zoo and others on seagrass and other restoration projects within the IRL system.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I have had to have all of these attributes to reach the level of principal scientist. The character, judgement, and analytical abilities certainly come naturally with being an experienced scientist. Communication and group consensus building have come with extensive training in those areas. I have had to learn to communicate abilities and results both for proposals and conferences (both professional and public). I have had to build consensus to move projects and programs forward. I work hard to understand and develop the science in projects and programs, but understand that continued funding requires the ability to clearly communicate the results and build consensus.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

I have led and been a part of many groups from other companies, government, and the private sector entrusted with making decisions, some in emergency response situations. I have always tried to adhere to and emphasize leaving any personal associations, interests, and feelings at the door in order to focus on the task at hand. The task at hand for the Oversight Committee is to transparently make recommendations for use of the Trust Funds. I will be using my background knowledge and capabilities to assist the committee in the efforts to make sound recommendations.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Don Deis has worked for 45 years in the environmental science field as a consultant to industry and government. His areas of interest include environmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring of marine, estuarine, and coastal projects; restoration of estuarine and marine ecosystems; impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and transport; disaster response planning; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) related to disasters; and environmental rules and regulation. During his career, he worked on many of the large restoration programs in Florida and around the U.S. including Everglades Restoration, Mississippi River delta area restoration, Missouri River, and The Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Mr. Deis has authored or coauthored many technical reports and published several papers in his areas of interest. In "retirement", he has been donating his time towards grants working with Brevard Zoo and others on seagrass and other restoration projects within the Indian River Lagoon system. He is currently a member of the Citizens Oversight Committee for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Plan.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

- ☒ Email
- ☒ Phone

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

NA

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

I have volunteered my time towards matching funds as a experienced professional on the design, performance, and data analysis on seagrass and planted shoreline projects with the Brevard Zoo. None of the projects are contracted through SOIRL funds. They are funded by the Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program as a part of their federal funding.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

As a marine/estuarine ecologist, my interests and experiences have centered around coastal waters. I am an avid boater, sailor, and kayaker. I am also a swimmer, snorkeler, and diver. I enjoy being on and in the water, and, of course, I want that water and the surrounding ecosystem to be as healthy as possible. My career has allowed me to mix my interests with the projects that I have done over the years. Those projects have leaned towards assessment, restoration, mitigation, and/or enhancement of systems. The ultimate goal is to get the system in as good a condition as possible. In retirement, the Indian River Lagoon system has become my focus of interest for study and recreation. From my experience, I know what the system was able to achieve in the past and I understand the tipping point that caused the current condition. From my experience, I know that we can achieve restoration of the system; however, it will take time and patience.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I have a M.S. in marine/estuarine ecology from Florida Atlantic University. My specialty is benthic invertebrate ecology and water quality. My thesis was on the effect of a wastewater outfall into Lake Worth Lagoon (West Palm Beach). I have retired after working as a scientist for government or science and engineering firms for over 45 years. I am retiring after 25 years as a Principal Technical Professional (Vice President) at my current firm. My work has focused on assessment restoration, mitigation, and/or enhancement of ecosystems applying technology and science. I am a Certified Environmental Professional (CEP); a member of the National, state (Florida) and local Association of Environmental Professionals; a member of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation; and a member of the Southeastern Estuarine Research Society. I have served on committees and boards for all of these organizations including board president of the Academy of Board Certified Environmental Professionals. I mentor young professionals with all these organizations and my company. We moved to Brevard County from northeast Florida. I served as the chairman of a citizens advisory committee to the county commission for comprehensive planning and development. I would hope that it is obvious that I am not the type of individual to sit back and let things happen. A difference is made by getting involved. I would like to be a part of the restoration of the Indian River Lagoon system. Being a voting member of the Citizens Oversight Committee and advising in the expenditure of the Trust Funds would be a method of getting involved and making a difference.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

I am requesting no accommodations at this time.

[Deis Resume 2024.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### **Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

## Donald R. Deis, M.S., CEP

### Employment

1978 – 1985 – Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Biologist  
1985 – 1992 – Continental Shelf Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager  
1992 – 1996 – KBN Engineering/Golder Associates, Inc., Scientist, Project Manager  
1996 – 2023 – Atkins North America/SNC Lavalin, Inc., Vice President/Principal Scientist

Don Deis has more than 45 years of experience in the environmental science field as a consultant to industry and government. His areas of interest include environmental evaluation, assessment, and monitoring of marine, estuarine, and coastal projects; restoration of estuarine and marine ecosystems; impacts of oil and gas exploration, development, and transport; disaster response planning; natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) related to disasters; and environmental rules and regulation. Mr. Deis has authored or coauthored more than 100 technical reports and published articles in his areas of interest.

Mr. Deis has both domestic and international experience developing environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. He has experience in evaluation (modeling) and assessment (monitoring) of restoration projects. He has used habitat equivalency analysis to scale mitigation for impacts from NRDA and permitting-related projects. As a coastal ecologist, he has particular interest in hard bottom (reef) and seagrass habitats. He has studied these habitats throughout Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Caribbean.

Mr. Deis' Atkins project experience includes:

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Lead scientist on the identification and restoration of propeller-scar damaged areas in seagrasses in St. Joseph Bay, Alligator Harbor, and St. Andrews Bay Aquatic Preserves. **Duration:** 01/2018-2021

**Port of Miami, North Bulkhead Realignment Program, Miami, FL.** Project manager for permitting the realignment of the north bulkhead of the Port to address the future needs of the cruise industry at the Port. The program includes permitting the mitigation needs of the program which includes removal and reattachment of corals from the existing bulkhead and development of an artificial reef program to address mitigation requirements. Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) was used to scale seagrass and shoreline vegetation impacts. **Duration:** 09/2015-2021

**Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Baton Rouge, LA.** Project scientist in support of the development of the Restoration Plan for Barataria Bay. Tasks include the development of the Strategic Restoration Plan and the Restoration Plan associated with obtaining DWH NRDA funding for the project and project alternatives analysis in support of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) development. The projects considered include alternatives associated with the mid-Barataria sediment diversion into Barataria Basin. **Duration:** 10/2017-2021

**Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Baton Rouge, LA.** Project scientist providing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) support services in preparation of the Mid-Breton Sediment Diversion EIS. Under this initial scope of work (SOW), the Atkins team will work closely with the engineering and

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### Education

M.S., Marine Biology/Ecology,  
Florida Atlantic University, 1978  
B.S., Biology, Wright State  
University, 1974

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### Certifications

Certified Environmental  
Professional (CEP), #91032285  
Certified 40-hour HAZWOPER  
and current 8-hour HAZWOPER  
refreshers  
Atkins Dive Team:  
:: YMCA Open Water Diver  
:: NAUI Nitrox  
:: PADI Advanced Diver  
:: PADI Rescue Diver, Current  
O2 delivery, First Aid, CPR  
Certifications, Licensed Captain  
(uninspected passenger vessel)  
TWIC Badge expires 11/13/2024  
FEMA Badge expires 6/19/2022

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### Professional affiliations

Academy of Board Certified  
Environmental Professionals,  
Past Board President  
National Association of  
Environmental Professionals,  
Member, Florida and state  
regional affiliate  
Coastal and Estuarine Research  
Federation

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## Donald R. Deis, CEP

design team selected for this project and CPRA staff to perform the tasks in support of the EIS. **Duration:** 08/2018-2021

**Accelerating Recovery After the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Response of the Plant-Microbial-Benthic Ecosystem To Mitigation Strategies Promoting Wetland Remediation And Resilience, Louisiana State University, LA.** Co-principal investigator on the benthic portion of this study funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI). The study tracks salt marsh plants and animals through remediation schemes and time. The research emphasizes ecological assessment of plant structure and function, marsh integrity, analysis of microbial communities, stable isotope signatures and life cycle of dominant benthic and faunal communities, and soil biogeochemical techniques. **Duration:** 10/2012-10/2014

**Long-Term Impact, Recovery and Resilience: Wetland Plant-Microbial-Benthic Ecosystem Responses to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Mitigation Strategies Promoting Sustainability, Louisiana State University, LA.** Co-principal investigator on the benthic epi-, infaunal portion of this study. The study continues and expands the GoMRI funded research described above. **Duration:** 1/2016–2021

**Synthesis of Long-Term Wetland Impacts, Recovery, and Resilience Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill: Comprehensive Meta-analysis and Supporting Resiliency Experiments, Nicholls State University, LA.** Co-principal investigator on research to assess the long-term impacts of the *DWH* spill using a more broad, multi-tier approach that includes a combination of (a) collaborative meta-analyses across multiple data sets and literature synthesis including data from GoMRI, the NRDA, and other studies, and (b) supporting resiliency experiments that integrate measures of long-term ecological status of the wetland vegetation-soil-benthic complex. **Duration:** 1/2018–present

**Escribano Point Wildlife Management Area (EPWMA) Hydrologic Study and Conceptual Restoration Plan, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, FL.** Project manager on a *DWH* oil spill National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded project tasked with using a combination of Geographical Information System (GIS) current and historic geospatial data in conjunction with two EPWMA field visits to 1) determine the current and historic surface water flow patterns of EPWMA and 2) develop engineering restoration recommendations to restore the historic flow patterns. **Duration:** 02/2016-10/2016.

**Deepwater Horizon (MS Canyon 252) Oil Spill Shoreline Assessment Program, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, LA.** Team lead for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) on the MS Canyon 252 specific shoreline assessment project in Louisiana. The assessment included field sampling and leadership of a multi-agency team. Additional related assignments include assistance in the management of staffing for 5-7 rotating field scientists and technical advisors serving as NOAA representatives on shoreline assessment teams (in AL, MS, and FL), marsh cleanup monitoring teams in LA, and research and monitoring cruises in offshore waters (NOAA R/V Pisces). **Duration:** 10/2011-04/2012

**Plan for Response to Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Incident, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration, LA.** Co-author on plan describing the important ecological, geomorphic, and hydrologic features and factors that may be affected by or may have an effect on the oil released from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; oil spill response strategies; a summary of documents that are most relevant to the

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

development of a statewide plan to respond to the oil spill; and recommendations on the technologies proposed to be employed by the state. **Duration:** 5/2010–6/2010

**Old Tampa Bay Regional Water Quality Improvements/Tampa, FL.** Technical advisor on water quality benefits to seagrass and the development of the Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method (UMAM) for the effects of improvements on the seagrass beds. FDOT District Seven is anticipating significant right-of-way costs associated with multiple upcoming projects, including acquisition of high-value commercial parcels for stormwater treatment ponds. The Atkins team, in partnership with FDOT environmental permitting and drainage staff, developed a unique cost-saving alternative that will meet state water quality criteria, provide greater benefits to the receiving water body (Old Tampa Bay), and save millions of taxpayer dollars versus the costs associated with stormwater ponds. **Duration:** 8/2017-2020

**Indian River Lagoon Muck Dredging Projects, Brevard County, FL.** Environmental lead. Brevard County targeted muck sediment removal as a method to improve water quality in the Indian River Lagoon. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection awarded \$10 million in grant funding to Brevard County for muck removal projects in the Indian River Lagoon and its tributaries. Atkins is assisting the County in the identification and permitting of projects. **Duration:** 09/2014-2021

**Port Canaveral Pre-emptive Mitigation Program, Canaveral Port Authority, Cocoa Beach, FL.** Project manager for conducting a preliminary feasibility study of the Port's expansion and rail line program to determine the scale of impacts and the mitigation opportunities that could be available to meet the mitigation needs for seagrass and mangrove impacts. **Duration:** 08/2013-2019

**Seagrass and Benthic Survey Services, Florida Inland Navigation District, East Coast, FL.** Project manager for seagrass and benthic habitat assessments extending through permitting and construction monitoring and including post-construction assessments. These studies have been performed along the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway distance along the east coast of Florida. **Duration:** 03/2012-09/2014

**Seagrass and Wetland Mitigation Program, Port Manatee, Palmetto, FL.** Environmental lead. As a result of the port's master planning process, Atkins described the future mitigation needs for the building of additional facilities at the port. The field studies were performed to describe the current seagrass and wetland impacts that would be caused from build-out of future facilities and the selection of mitigation projects that would mitigate for those impacts in advance of the impacts. The Uniform Mitigation Assessment Method was used to estimate the acres of mitigation required. **Duration:** 04/2008-2019

**Seagrass Habitat Restoration Management Plan, National Park Service, Everglades National Park, FL.** Senior coordinator for this Seagrass Habitat Restoration Management Plan (SHRMP) for Florida Bay which serves as a comprehensive and adaptive plan for assessing, restoring, and monitoring vessel-induced damages to seagrasses. It was developed to provide technical guidance for Everglades National Park staff and managers and it is consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, and policies, and incorporates the most current scientific data on Florida Bay's ecosystem and seagrasses. This SHRMP provides a concise, consistent, adaptable, and easily applied process for evaluating seagrass damage,



## Donald R. Deis, CEP

determining the appropriate restoration action for the situation, determining the required permits, and evaluating the recovery progress. **Duration:** 09/2012-03/2013

**St. Lucie Inlet Federal Navigation Project, Martin County, FL.** Provided environmental support for Martin County's Coastal Engineering Department assisting them in their role as local sponsor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the St. Lucie Inlet Federal Navigation project. Atkins performs several support tasks for inlet maintenance including annual bathymetric surveys, inlet condition surveys, construction management and oversight, state funding requests and grant progress reports, acquisition of regulatory permits, maintaining permit compliance, physical and environmental monitoring of the inlet and coast of Martin County, all in coordination with state and federal agencies. **Duration:** 03/2011-2021

**Smathers Beach Renourishment Construction Engineering and Inspection, Survey, and Biological Support Services, City of Key West, FL.** Assisted with the development of the biological monitoring plan, participated in data collection, analyzed data to determine the potential effects of beach renourishment on the nearshore biological resources including seagrass and hardbottom, and was lead author on all biological monitoring reports. **Duration:** 2001-2014

**Sebastian Inlet Channel Permitting and Comprehensive Seagrass Mitigation Program, Sebastian Inlet District, Indian River County, FL.** Permitting lead for the channel extension to the Intracoastal Waterway. The project involved an analysis of mitigation alternatives and recommended. Monitoring included the quantification of annual changes to submerged aquatic vegetation on the flood tidal shoal, through the use of aerial photography. Services included on-site verification; compilation of a propscar inventory; mapping; and calculating the area of damage of visible impacts from propeller scarring blowout holes and other hull-related damages. Coordinated development of the monitoring report summarizing the aerial analysis and field verification, which was prepared as part of the annual reporting as stipulated in the USACE and FDEP permits. **Duration:** 2005-2021

**Mid-Currituck Bridge Compensatory Mitigation Plans For Submerged Aquatic Vegetation within Currituck Sound, North Carolina Department of Transportation/North Carolina Turnpike Authority, Currituck County, NC.** Project manager for a field investigation was performed that focused on the identification of sites within Currituck Sound suitable for restoration or enhancement of submerged aquatic vegetation that could provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation habitat associated with the construction of the Mid-Currituck Bridge. **Duration:** 07/2012-04/2013

**Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, South Florida Water Management District/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District, South Florida.** Senior project manager to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jacksonville District, on the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP). Provided technical support and expertise to the estuarine areas of CERP for restoration coordination and verification (RECOVER). For RECOVER, assists in the facilitation of the southern coastal systems subteam of the assessment team and the evaluation team. These teams support CERP alternatives evaluation (modeling) and monitoring. **Duration:** 2001-2012

**Port of Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, FL.** Overall project manager for an environmental resources survey of the Palm Beach Harbor area, with the objective of documenting all biological resources in and around the Harbor. This information was used in conjunction with previously collected data to help assess impacts of



## Donald R. Deis, CEP

port dredging, expansion, modifications, and associated mitigation, while complying with the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, the Clean Water Act, the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and similar laws. Resources included seagrasses, colonized hardbottom, manatee habitat, and popular diving and snorkeling areas. **Duration:** 2010-2011

**Flower Gardens Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Freeport, TX.** Project manager on this monitoring program for the Flower Gardens Banks (FGB) National Marine Sanctuary, off the Texas coast. Atkins teamed with other coral reef experts on this eight-year contract with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that involved a long-term coral reef monitoring program for the FGB. The goal of the program was to monitor coral populations to detect changes that may be caused by oil and gas activities, and to address concerns related to both gradual and punctuated degradation of this unique offshore ecosystem. Also served as project manager on another BOEM contract to conduct a post-hurricane assessment of sensitive benthic habitats within the northwestern Gulf of Mexico, including the Bright, Geyer, McGrail, Sonnier, and East Flower Garden Banks. These banks were located near the paths of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. **Duration:** 2002-2010

**Project Manager on a Preliminary Assessment of Injury from the Grounding of the MV Igloo Moon on Hardbottom, ECM Hudson, Biscayne National Park, FL.** Performed the assessment of the MV Igloo Moon, a butadiene ship that grounded on seagrass and hardbottom in Biscayne National Park. Worked with the responsible party towards a cooperative assessment. **Duration:** 2000-2001

**Florida Department of Environmental Protection Seagrass and Hardbottom Permits Training, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Training manager responsible for overall management of this task order, including developing the training courses and materials for local, state, and federal regulators. This project, part of a larger consulting contract with Florida Department of Environmental Protection, involved a series of ecological workshops and training courses focused on issues related to marine and estuarine habitats including seagrasses, wetlands, and hardbottom habitats. The training was for permit processors from local, state, and federal agencies within Florida, and issues addressed included identification of the major species and general ecology of these habitats, as well as concepts in restoration and mitigation in these habitats. Training modules were developed on seagrass species in Florida, ecology of seagrasses, and seagrass restoration. **Duration:** 2004-2006

**Joint Coastal Permit Program Support, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Tallahassee, FL.** Permitting manager/technical advisor. Assisted with permit processing and technical oversight on various task orders, including the Manatee County Port Authority's seagrass mitigation program. The Joint Coastal Permit (JCP) program, overseen by Florida Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Beaches and Coastal Systems, involves the concurrent processing of applications for coastal construction permits, environmental resource permits, wetland resource (dredge and fill) permits, and sovereign submerged lands authorizations. Environmental consulting services provided in support of the JCP program included technical oversight, permit processing, and permit application review. Typical projects that require a JCP permit include beach restoration or nourishment, construction of erosion control structures such as groins and breakwaters, public fishing piers, maintenance of inlets and inlet-related structures,

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

and dredging of navigation channels including disposal of dredged material onto the beach or in the nearshore area.

**Duration:** 2002-2009

Mr. Deis' additional project management and/or sciences support project experience includes:

- Seagrass consultant for seagrass restoration in Sarasota Bay for the Town of Longboat Key. Duration: 2003
- Lead scientist for investigation of the distribution and ecology of the seagrass *Halophila johnsonii* in southeastern Florida. Duration: 2000-2001
- Project manager for development of a seagrass restoration program in the south Lake Worth Lagoon. Duration: 1998
- Project manager for seagrass monitoring projects in Fort Lauderdale. Duration: 1998-2002
- Co-project manager on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's evaluation of mitigation options to port development in Tampa Bay. Duration: 1984-1986
- Project manager for a seagrass planting project in Biscayne Bay for the Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resource Management Bay Restoration Program. Duration: 1994-1995
- Project manager on the aquatic monitoring (seagrass and hardbottom) for the thermal discharge from a power plant in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic. Duration: 1994-1997
- Co-project manager on the development of the Surface Water Improvement and Management plan for Florida Bay. Duration: 1989
- Project manager for development of seagrass mitigation plans for Harbour Isles Marina, Fort Pierce, and Indian River Lagoon. Duration: 2003-2007
- Project advisor of development of seagrass mitigation plans for Bahia Mar Marina in Fort Lauderdale. Duration: 2000
- Project manager of seagrass planting in Key West. Duration: 2001
- Project manager for benthic macroinvertebrate and seagrass survey in Ocean Ridge, FL. Duration: 1993
- Chief scientist on seagrass mapping and environmental analysis in conjunction with marina development associated with a Fort Lauderdale redevelopment project. Duration: 1990-1991
- Scientist on mapping and monitoring nearshore seagrass and hardbottom habitats for the Southwest Florida Nearshore Habitats Study for the Minerals Management Service. Duration: 1988-1990
- Scientist for a seagrass revegetation project in Laguna Madre, TX. Duration: 1986

### Publications and Presentations

Price, R., D. Loy, D. Deis, S. Zengel, and J. Brucker. 2023. Sediment tube implementation for restoration of extensively propeller scarred *Thalassia* meadows. *Florida Scientist* 86(2): 346-359. Special Issue: Proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tampa Bay Area Scientific and Information Symposium 2022, available <https://tbep.org/our-work/library/>.

Deis, D.R., J.W. Fleeger, D.S. Johnson, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, S.A. Graham, S. Zengel, A. Hou. 2020. Recovery of the salt marsh periwinkle (*Littorina irrorata*) 9 years after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill: Size matter. *Marine Pollution Bulletin* 160: 111581.

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

Deis D.R., I.A. Mendelssohn, J.W. Fleeger, S.M. Bourgoin, Q. Lin. 2019. Legacy effects of Hurricane Katrina influenced salt marsh erosion following the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. *Science of the Total Environment* 672: 456-467.

D.S. Johnson, J.W. Fleeger, M.R. Riggio, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, S.A. Graham, D.R. Deis, A. Hou. 2018. Nutrient subsidies do not enhance the positive effects of foundation species on initial recovery of saltmarsh animals. *Ecosphere* (9)1 e02082.

Fleeger J.W., M.R. Riggio, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, D.R. Deis, D.S. Johnson, K.R. Carman, S. A. Graham, S. Zengel, A. Hou. In review. What Drives Resiliency of Saltmarsh Infauna after Oil Spills? *Estuaries and Coasts*.

Fleeger J.W., M.R. Riggio, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q.X. Lin, A. Hou, D.R. Deis. 2017. Recovery of saltmarsh meiofauna six years after the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. *Journal of Marine Biology and Ecology*.  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jembe.2017.03.001>

Deis D.R., J.W. Fleeger, S.M. Bourgoin, I.A. Mendelssohn, Q. Lin, and A. Hou. 2017. Shoreline oiling effects and recovery of salt marsh macroinvertebrates from the *Deepwater Horizon* Oil Spill. **PeerJ** 5:e3680; DOI 10.7717/peerj.368.

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Deis, D. R., "Monitoring the Effects of Construction and Operation of Marina on the Seagrass *Halophila decipiens* in Fort Lauderdale, Florida." Chapter 11 in *Seagrass Ecology and Management*, CRC Press, Boca Raton, Florida, 2000.

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

Deis, Don, "Planning, Permitting, and Mitigation for Transportation Corridors, Ports, and Intermodal Logistics," presented at the 28th Annual Environmental Permitting Summer School, Marco Island, FL, July 24, 2014.

Deis, D.R., Manzello, L., Gelber, A., and Smithson, M, "Sebastian Inlet Flood Tidal Shoal Monitoring System," presented at the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) annual conference, St. Petersburg, FL, April 10, 2014.

Deis, D.R., S.E. Pophal, and R.E. Ferrell, "Mid- Currituck Bridge Compensatory Mitigation Plans For Submerged Aquatic Vegetation within Currituck Sound," 2013 annual meeting of the North Carolina Beach, Inlet, & Waterway Association. Wrightville Beach, North Carolina, 2013.

Deis, D.R., F.E. Marshall, P.A. Pitts, A.D. Gottlieb. A Water Level Performance Measure for Everglades Restoration – Integrating Everglades and Florida Bay Restoration Requirements. INTERCOL - 9th annual international wetlands conference. Society of Wetland Scientists. Orlando, Florida, 2012.

Deis, D.R., L. Manzello, A. Hazra, and M. Smithson. "How Can Mitigation Program Success Be Assessed During a System Collapse?" Restore America's Estuaries 2012 Conference, Tampa, Florida, 2012.

Deis, D.R., S.K. Kemp., "Taylor Slough-- An example that operations and flow can effect changes in the Everglades and Florida Bay. Restore America's Estuaries," 2012 Conference. Tampa, Florida, 2012.

Deis, D.R., S.K. Kemp. 2011, "Taylor Slough: an example that operations and flow can effect changes in the Everglades and Florida Bay," 21st Biennial Conference of the Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation, Daytona Beach, Florida, November 2011.

Deis, D.R., "Performance Measures Development for Florida Bay within the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project," Proceedings of the 37th Annual Conference of the National Association of Environmental Professionals, Portland, Oregon, 2012.

Deis, D. R., L. Duncan, A. L. Hazra, and M. Smithson, "Comprehensive Seagrass Mitigation and Monitoring Program at Sebastian Inlet, Florida," 23rd Annual National Conference on Beach Preservation Technology, Melbourne, Florida, February 2010.

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Deis, D. R., "Performance Measure Development within the Adaptive Management Process," National Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference, San Diego, California, 2008.

## Donald R. Deis, CEP

Deis, D. R., B. T. Furman, M. S. Smithson, and D. L. Stites, "Sebastian Inlet Channel Completion Project," National Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference, San Diego, California, 2008.

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G. P. Schmahl, D. R. Deis, and S. K. Shutler, "Cooperative Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Coral Restoration at the Container Ship Houston Grounding in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary," Chapter 13, in W.F. Precht (ed.) *Coral Reef Restoration Handbook*, CRC, Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.

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## **Donald R. Deis, CEP**

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## SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT

A multi-county, independent special taxing district created by the Florida State Legislature

2024-2025  
COMMISSIONERS

DAVID BARNEY  
Chair  
Seat 4 – Indian River County

LISA FRAZIER  
Vice Chair  
Seat 5 – Brevard County

MICHAEL ROWLAND  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Seat 3 – Brevard County

TJ MARSHALL  
Seat 1 – Brevard County

JOHN CAMPBELL  
Seat 2 – Indian River County

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JAMES D. GRAY, JR.  
Executive Director

November 21, 2024

Natural Resources Management Department  
C/o Save Our Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940

### Re: Letter of Reference – Don Deis

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my privilege to provide this letter of reference for Don Deis for appointment to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I have known Don since 2010, as a consultant to the Sebastian Inlet District (SID) and as a scientist with Atkins. Currently, as a citizen and resident of Brevard County that remains very active in the local environmental community.

Don brought his knowledge and expertise of the Indian River Lagoon system and environmental permitting to the SID during time when the SID saw the need for a designated channel from the Intracoastal Waterway to the inlet. The permitting process had been stalled because of seagrasses withing the dredge template of the proposed channel. He was brought on board with an existing project team to develop a mitigation program for the proposed channel. He successfully developed the program and methodology presented the results of the permit required monitoring to the SID Commission and staff. The SID Commissioners valued the information and stewardship of environmental resources and elected to continue the annual monitoring program to the present day, equating to over 17 years of data on the condition of the seagrasses at Sebastian Inlet. Don continued in the role of project manager for the program until retirement when he passed that role to a colleague. He remains active in the SID program reviewing the data and reports.



Don certainly has the qualifications, knowledge, and communication skills to become a valuable member of the oversight committee providing stewardship of the trust funds. He understands what the Indian River Lagoon system needs in the restoration process from listening to the experts and his own work. I fully support his desire to volunteer his time for the benefit of this community that he calls home.

Please feel free to contact me at 321-724-5175 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James Gray, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

James Gray, Jr.  
Executive Director

**Boards Application Form****Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

2398965055 Aaron

Prefix

First Name

Middle  
Initial

Adams

Last Name

aaronjadams.64@gmail.com

Email Address

190 Ibis Drive

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Melbourne Beach

City

FL

State

32951

Postal Code

Home: (239) 896-5055

Primary Phone

Home: (239) 896-5055

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

11 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- ☒ Lagoon Commerce

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

The Indian river Lagoon is the central cultural and economic component of the east coast of Florida. However, the IRL can only continue to fill this essential role if it returns to a healthy state. Without a healthy IRL, the fisheries, tourism, recreational activities, and the region's identity will all fail. As a Brevard County resident and frequent user of the IRL (fishing, SUP), I have ample reason for investing in improving the IRL's health.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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I am marine conservation biologist with extensive experience in research, education, and conservation related to estuarine and marine environments. I have worked throughout the state of Florida, the Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea on conservation-related issues similar to the issues that challenge the Indian River Lagoon. My broad experience and familiarity with not only coastal ecosystems but the IRL, will be a benefit to the committee.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

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As the Director of Science of a Florida-based, internationally-recognized, science-based, conservation non-profit, I have extensive experience creating and maintaining partnerships and collaborations with diverse groups. For example, I have excellent relationships with the recreational fishing community, academic researchers, and state agency natural resource managers as part of numerous programs to improve natural resource management. This collaborative way of doing is only successful with strong communication and integrity that enables the long-term relationships that make collaborations successful.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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I am well-versed in separating personal and professional interests. As a career marine scientist, my daily professional activities require that I maintain an objective perspective. Even in instances where I might have a personal opinion, the data say what the data say, which is what should lead actions. This separation of personal and professional or other interests is essential to any successful collaboration, but especially the types of issues that the committee has to address (some may not be popular or are supported/opposed by special interests).

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Born in Maryland, I have lived, worked, and fished on both coasts of the US, and in the Caribbean, where I have been conducting fish and conservation research for more than 30 years. My focus on effective fish and habitat conservation are rooted in my years growing up near Chesapeake Bay, where I witnessed the decline of the Bay's habitats and fisheries. In addition to having a strong publication record in scientific peer-reviewed journals, I believe that translating marine science into layman's terms leads to a more educated fishing community that is more likely to advocate for improving conservation and resource management. I have written three books, contributed chapters to four books, and published countless magazine articles translating fish science into angler's terms as part of my education and communication approach. My appearance on many television and online shows and podcasts - from PBS to fishing shows - is a continuation of this effort. I have been an avid angler since the age of five, and was even known to skip school in pursuit of fish. My early fishing experiences also led to asking the why and how of fish and their habitats desire for understanding that led to my career as a marine conservation scientist. My personal background and professional experience also inform my collaborative approach to marine conservation, and I work hard to build bridges among stakeholders, research colleagues, resource managers and the general public.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Recommendation of Dr Aaron J. Adams signed.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

I am on the IRLNEP STEM SAC committee

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

I am an avid recreational angler and outdoor recreation enthusiast with a marine biology background. I am well suited to serve on this important committee.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I have a bachelor's degree, Master's degree, and Ph.D., all focusing on marine and environmental science. I am an avid recreational angler and outdoor enthusiast (SUP paddling, surfing). I have lived and worked throughout the region, so I have a broad experience that helps innovate to address challenges. Most of the research I conduct focuses on fish and their habitats, and includes the fishing community and other stakeholders. I also make an effort to translate the scientific results into layman's terms so that people are able to make informed decisions. I also have a Coast Guard Captain's license, though I do not guide. The skills I have developed over the years will directly apply to the successful function of the committee as it helps to guide IRL restoration and management.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

None requested

[AAdams\\_CV\\_November\\_2024\\_short.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree





**Aaron J. Adams**

190 Ibis Drive

Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

Email: [aaronjadams.64@gmail.com](mailto:aaronjadams.64@gmail.com)

Telephone: +1-239-896-5055

**CAREER INTERESTS**

Ecological research with conservation applications.

Habitat ecology, habitat connectivity, conservation biology.

Translating conservation science into layman's terms.

Integrating stakeholders into conservation research, planning, and implementation.

Design and conduct theoretically based research with direct application to conservation, management, and science-based planning.

Ontogenetic connectivity of marine and estuarine fishes.

Effects of natural and anthropogenic disturbances on coastal habitats and fishes.

**EDUCATION**

Ph.D. 2001. Environmental Biology. University of Massachusetts Boston.

M.A. 1993. Marine Science. College of William and Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

B.A. 1987. St. Mary's College of Maryland

**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS**

2015 – 2024 Director of Science and Conservation, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

2016 – 2023 Senior Scientist, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Florida Atlantic University

2006 – 2015 Director of Operations, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

2002 – 2013 Senior Scientist and Program Manager, Fisheries Habitat Ecology Program, Directorate of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Mote Marine Laboratory, Charlotte Harbor Field Station.

2001 – 2002 Postdoctoral Associate. North Carolina State University and Mote Marine Laboratory. Habitat ecology of fishes in Charlotte Harbor, FL.

1997 – 2001 Dissertation Research. University of Massachusetts Boston.  
Ontogenetic habitat ecology of juvenile coral reef fishes, and connections to adult populations.

1993 – 1997 Fish and Wildlife Biologist II and III. U.S. Virgin Islands Division of Fish and Wildlife, St. Croix.  
Reef fish census, recreational and commercial fisheries sampling, artificial reef monitoring, staff supervision and oversight.

- 1990-1993      Master's Degree Research. College of William and Mary, Virginia  
Institute of Marine Science.  
Temporal patterns of fish assemblages associated with an offshore  
artificial reef.
- 1989 – 1990      Fisheries Technician. California Department of Fish and Game.  
Monterey, CA.  
Commercial (primarily trawl) port sampling of the *Sebastes*-complex  
fishery

### **PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

- 2017 – present      Graduate Faculty, Department of Biological Sciences, Florida Atlantic  
University
- 2024 – present      Affiliate faculty, Florida Atlantic University Harbor Branch  
Oceanographic Institute
- 2013 – 2016      Research Associate Professor, Biological Sciences, Florida Institute of  
Technology, Vero Beach Marine Lab
- 2008 – 2012      Courtesy Faculty, Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences,  
University of Florida
- 2005 – 2013      Courtesy Faculty, Department of Marine and Ecological Sciences, Florida  
Gulf Coast University
- 2008 – 2013      Affiliate Member, Coastal Watershed Institute, Florida Gulf Coast  
University
- 2008 – 2013      Adjunct Graduate Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, Florida Gulf  
Coast University

### **SERVICE**

- Associate Editor, Gulf and Caribbean Research. 2007 – 2014.
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature, Recreational Fisheries Advisory Panel 2018
- Guest Editor, Environmental Biology of Fishes. 2015, 2018, 2022
- Science and Policy Committee, American Fly Fishing Trade Association 2020 – 2024
- Steering Committee, Fisheries and Climate Coalition, American Fly Fishing Trade Association,  
2020 – 2024
- Biscayne Bay Operational Hydrodynamic Model Advisory Board. 2020
- Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program STEM Scientific Advisory Committee 2022 –  
present
- Seagrass conservation through actionable research: Management areas for prevention of scarring  
(SCAR MAPS). Stakeholder Advisory Council. 2023 – present

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Fisheries Society  
American Association for the Advancement of Science  
Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

**CERTIFICATES**

United States Coast Guard OUPV (Captain's License)

**AWARDS**

Fly Fishers International Aldo Leopold Conservation Award – 2018

**RESEARCH CRUISE**

Chief Scientist, M/Y Albula bonefish spawning research cruises in The Bahamas: 6 cruises total, each approximately one week duration, 2018-2020

**PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS – 114 TOTAL**

**NON-PEER REVIEWED SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS**

Adams, A.J. 2017. Tracking fish movements to inform conservation. *Fisheries*, 42(8):416-420.

**TRANSLATING SCIENCE TO LAYMAN'S TERMS**

**Books**

- Adams, A.J. Chapters 1 – 4 *In*: Fernandez, Chico. 2015. Fly Fishing for Redfish. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA.
- Adams, A.J. Chapter 3 *In*: Klug, Jim. 2014. Fly Fishing Belize. Published by Jim Klug. Bozeman, MT. 268pp.
- Adams, A.J. Chapter *In*: Burkhardt, Dan, *Editor*. 2013. Florida Bay Forever. Acclaim Press. Morley, MO. 192pp.
- Adams, A.J. 2012. The Orvis Guide to Fly Fishing for Coastal Gamefish. Lyons Press. New York.
- Adams, A.J. Chapter and Afterword *In*: White, R.W. and C.F. Brennen (eds). 2010. Randy Wayne White's Ultimate Tarpon Book. University Press of Florida. Gainesville, FL. 436pp.
- Adams, A.J. 2008. Fly Fisherman's Guide to Saltwater Prey. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA. 206pp.
- Adams, A.J. 2004. Fisherman's coast: angler's guide to marine warm-water gamefish and their habitats. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburgh, PA. 210 pp.
- Adams, A.J. Chapters 1 – 4 *In*: Fernandez, Chico. 2004. Fly Fishing for Bonefish. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburgh, PA. 192pp.

**Magazine Articles – 30 prior to 2013, when I stopped tracking**

**Public Presentations – 36 total**

**RESEARCH FUNDING**

Funds from numerous grants, foundation donations, and individual donors as Director of Operations (2006-2015) and Director of Science and Conservation (2015 – present) for Bonefish & Tarpon Trust. As Director of Science and Conservation, I oversee an annual research budget ~\$2.5 million.

Other grants – 31 total

**SERVICE ON GRADUATE COMMITTEES** – 7 Ph.D, 11 Masters

**UNDERGRADUATE INTERNS** 2003-2012 – 17. 7 co-authored peer- reviewed publications

**INVITED SPEAKER, CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, PANELS** - 43

**PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS** – 55 TOTAL

**JOURNALS FOR WHICH I WAS A PEER REVIEWER** – 45 JOURNALS TOTAL

**OTHER PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, Marine Science Seminar Series – 7 presentations from 2017-2024.

Florida Oceanographic Society, Ocean Science Lecture Series. January 2022

Presentation Title – Conservation of a Prehistoric Fish: Tarpon in the Anthropocene  
The Science of Backwater Fishing. A two-hour seminar based on my book *Fisherman's Coast*.  
A seminar given for Ultimate Backwater Fishing Schools, a three-day classroom and on-water school on fishing shallow coastal habitats. 2003 – 2007.

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

Photos published in:

Fly Fishing in Salt Waters magazine

American Angler magazine

Saltwater Fly Fishing magazine

This Is Fly online magazine

Shallow Water Angler magazine

Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program calendars

Bonefish & Tarpon Journal

Florida Fly Fishing magazine

EPA web sites

Southern Culture On The Fly online magazine

Florida Oceanographic Society

Orvis Catalogue 2017

**CONSERVATION FOCUSED MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Television

*Dollar-wise Fly* (Versus network: one episode)

*Pirates of the Flats* (ESPN2: 6 episodes)

*Buccaneers and Bones* (Outdoor Channel: 13 episodes)

*Reel Road Trip* (World Fishing Network: one episode)

*Silver King* (WGCU, PBS Documentary)

*Florida Insider Fishing Report* (Sun Network: 4 episodes)

*Changing Seas* (WPBT, PBS series: 2 episodes)

- Season 10, Episode 4: Fishing the Flats for Science <https://www.pbs.org/video/fishing-the-flats-for-science-a4t1uu/>
- Season 13, Episode 4: Habitats: The Key to Florida's Fisheries. <https://www.pbs.org/video/1304-yoi1gs/>

*Silver Kings* (Discovery Channel: multiple episodes)

*Florida Sportsman: Watermen* (World Fishing Network, Sportsman Channel and Fox Sports: 2 episodes)

*Guiding Flow* (Waypoint TV: 2 episodes)

#### Podcasts

*Tom Rowland Podcast* (Waypoint TV; 1 episode) <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/live-from-icast-florida-water-issues-captains-for-clean/id1353574678?i=1000530962532>

*Higher Calling Podcast*: <https://thehighercalling.podbean.com/e/the-majestic-and-frustrating-permit-flats-slam-series-pt-2/>

*Captain's Collective Podcast*, episode #076, <http://captainscollective.com>

*Anchored Podcast*, episode #62, <https://anchoredoutdoors.com/anchored-podcast/>

*The Orvis Fly-Fishing Podcast*, December 18, 2023 <https://news.orvis.com/fly-fishing/podcast-how-water-temperature-affects-saltwater-flats-fish-with-dr-aaron-adams>

*Angler's Journal Podcast*, July 30, 2024 <https://www.anglersjournal.com/podcast/why-are-bonefish-on-drugs>

*Save What You Love with Mark Titus Podcast*, episode #50

<https://savewhatyoulove.evaswild.com/episodes/50-dr-aaron-adams-bonefish-tarpon-trust>

#### Miscellaneous

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/news/full-circle/red-tide-and-algae-blooms-florida-waters-in-crisis>

<https://anchorfly.com/interview-aaron-adams-bonefish-tarpon-trust/>

<https://news.orvis.com/conservation/aaron-adams-profile>

<https://vimeo.com/bonefishtarpontrust>



Recommendation of Dr. Aaron J. Adams for membership on the Brevard County Indian River Lagoon  
Citizens Oversight Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

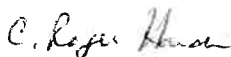
I am writing this letter as a recommendation that Dr. Aaron J. Adams (PhD.) be considered for inclusion on the Brevard County Indian River Lagoon Citizens Oversight Committee. I have known Dr. Adams for many years and believe that he is extremely qualified to be selected for and would provide a high level of scientific expertise and insight to that committee.

Dr. Adams is currently employed as the Director of Science and Conservation for the Tarpon and Bonefish Trust, and he is also an adjunct faculty member at Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Adams received his Doctorate Degree in Environmental Biology from the University of Massachusetts (Boston) in 2001 and has been with the Tarpon and Bonefish Trust since 2015. He frequently travels to the Bahamas and Central America where he consults with local entities regarding efforts to improve their own marine habitats and to institute science-based conservation programs.

As the author, coauthor, or contributor to over one hundred scientific publications in the field of environmental biology Dr. Adams is obviously well-versed in the disciplines of scientific sampling and data interpretation. As such he is able to provide fact-based conclusions regarding his own research and has the training and ability to scrutinize the research and conclusions of others. His abilities are essential for a committee comprised of members from various walks of life who may not be science-oriented or who may not be able to understand the relevance of data relating to issues faced by our lagoon. Such issues as water quality, habitat degradation, fishing pressure, survival of both adult and juvenile species, and the complexity/contribution of the numerous Mangrove habitats along the Indian River are just a few that need to be thoroughly considered when the committee makes recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners. Dr. Adams' knowledge and ability to discuss such topics, and to help others understand the scientific concepts involved, would make him a valuable committee member.

In conclusion I highly recommend that Dr. Aaron Adams be selected for membership on the Brevard County Indian River Citizens Oversight Committee (for which he is submitting an application.) Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, and I thank you, in advance, for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,



C. Roger Hardin  
290 Heron Dr.  
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951  
321-431-6779



## Watkins, Jaculin

---

**From:** Barker, Virginia H  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2024 12:21 PM  
**To:** Watkins, Jaculin  
**Subject:** FW: Lagoon committee application

Jackie,  
What do we need to do to make this requested adjustment?  
Thank you,  
Virginia

**From:** Aaron Adams <aaronjadams.64@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2024 12:16 PM  
**To:** Barker, Virginia H <Virginia.Barker@brevardfl.gov>  
**Subject:** Lagoon committee application

**[EXTERNAL EMAIL]** DO NOT CLICK links or attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Virginia,

I am emailing to revise the category for my application for the committee. Please add me as an applicant for the Lagoon Commerce seat. I have extensive on-water experience, have good relationships with the fishing community (which is important, since outreach to this community will be an essential part of the position), and already work in the space that integrates fishing/on the water, research, conservation, education, management.

Aaron

---

## Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

	Frederic	S	Goldstein
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

fscottg@yahoo.com  
Email Address

1390 Centaurus Ct	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Merritt Island	FL	32953
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: 9046131224	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

### How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

2 years 10 months

### To which Commissioner are you applying?

☒ District 2

### Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

☒ Yes ☐ No

---

## Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Economics/Finance
- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I want to bring my experience and love of marine biology to assist in restoring the Indian River Lagoon. It all began in the 4th grade I read a book on whales and another on sharks. At that point, I knew I wanted to be a Marine Biologist. My quest continued through college where I received a degree in Zoology with a focus on Marine Biology. Unfortunately, at that time there were limited job opportunities in shark research, so I went into healthcare management. But my love for the waterways and oceans continued. In 1995 I began driving down from Jacksonville and fishing the Mosquito Lagoon and the north end of the Indian River. I recall the incredibly clear water, seagrass, and amazing fishing. When the Seagrass die-offs occurred, the devastation was clear. Over 15 years ago, Laura, my wife, and I, while living in Jacksonville, Florida decided if we could live anywhere, we would move down here to the Indian River Lagoon. We had been coming down together and with our children, kayaking, boating, fishing, and going to the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge and the Kennedy Space Center. In 2021 we were able to move here and now live in Merritt Island, on Sykes Creek. As with all of us in Brevard County, the Lagoon is in essence our backyard. Once here, I decided to volunteer to help in the restoration of this paradise and began doing some volunteer work with MRC, and others and founded Xplore the IRL, a YouTube and Facebook channel to discuss the efforts of groups and individuals in the community working to restore the Indian River Lagoon. The channel also highlights activities and places to visit. It brings me back to what I wanted to do in the 4th grade. Helping restore the Lagoon is one of the volunteer areas I now focus on as my working career winds down and my volunteer career winds up.

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

My educational background includes a BA in Zoology from the University of California at Berkeley. During that time, I worked in a lab with one of the leading experts on Cichlids, as well as spent a summer as an unpaid Intern at the Mote Marine Laboratory where I worked on a sediment analysis of Tampa Bay, studies of animal populations using seine nets along the beaches and collected sharks offshore. I also grew up working summers in my father's lab, he was a professor of Medicine at UC Davis and at that time his research focus was on air pollution. In Healthcare I have been a hospital CEO, Vice President/General Manager of an HMO, and founded a chronic care/disease management company. In these positions, I oversaw the operations and finance of multimillion-dollar organizations. Understanding and evaluating their finances, services, and operations. For the past 12 years, I have been a consultant working internationally in Population Health through my company Accountable Health, LLC. Additionally, I teach in the Executive Master's Program at the John D. Bower School of Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center and have been a member of the editorial board of the journal Population Health Management since 2012. This background has provided me with experience in program development and evaluation, finance, information technology, digital health (using wearable and other devices to monitor and provide data on individuals), operations, marketing, and working within an organization as well as as an external consultant. Two very different roles. As the Cofounder and lead host of a radio show, PopHealth Week now in its 9th year, and the AMCP Podcast Series – Listen Up, I understand communications and have brought that experience to Xplore the IRL, my social media channel about the Indian River Lagoon. Like others on the committee, I bring a unique background and diverse lenses with which to look at the issues, proposals, interventions, and results of our efforts to restore the lagoon. My volunteer work locally includes working with MRC, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, Waterway Warriors, Xplore the IRL (my own YouTube/Facebook Channel), attending COC meetings either in person or via the internet, and many lagoon-related events. I also spend considerable time on the lagoon observing the health of the lagoon from Mosquito Lagoon in the north down to Sebastian Inlet, fishing, boating, paddleboarding, looking at wildlife, pulling tires and trash from the lagoon, as well as growing mangroves and oysters at our house. Other volunteer activities include participating in the Michael J Fox Parkinson's Progression Marker Initiative as a clinical study volunteer for over 8 years (my father lived with Lewy Body Disease). Three years ago, I was asked to be a volunteer member of their participant committee, which requires attending quarterly calls and their annual research conference as well as reviewing and testing their website, new initiatives, and health apps. In the past, I volunteered as the outdoor activity coordinator for Boy Scout Troop 14 in Jacksonville, FL, and worked with Jim Kern, the founder of the Florida Trail on his non-profit Friends of the Florida Trail. I understand from a scientific perspective the issues the Lagoon is facing, including the major sources of pollution, the various projects being implemented to mitigate these issues, and the ways to measure progress. A clear point for the community to understand is what we in population health call "leading and lagging indicators". Some of the things we are doing are leading indicators such as the number of septic to sewer conversions or the amount of muck removal, others are lagging indicators such as water quality, seagrass growth, and the improvement in the health of the populations of animals and plants. These lagging indicators take time to show changes.

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

My goals in healthcare are to make things better with a focus on disadvantaged populations and individuals. Since 1994 much of my work has been with Medicaid beneficiaries. I ran a Medicaid health plan and later founded a company that developed programs for beneficiaries living with 10 chronic diseases or conditions, including the first disease management program in Medicaid for people living with HIV/AIDS and the first for people living with Schizophrenia. This can be directly translated to the work of the COC as the approach used to improve the health of populations is similar to the approach used to restore the lagoon, with just a few key differences being the measurements, interventions, and results. It is also clear that the health of the lagoon impacts the health of those living near it and recreating on it. As a committee member, understanding how the government works, the various bid processes, contracting, etc. is another key area. My experience includes advocating for legislation, contracting directly with states, a city, and a county library, getting the Annual Medicare Wellness Visit into the Affordable Care Act, and testifying before four State Legislatures. Like other committee members, I am comfortable serving as a voice for the Committee and Lagoon as well as the ears to the community's thoughts, effectively representing those we serve. I have learned these skills through my work in healthcare as well as through my Radio Show/Podcast work and more recently with my social media channel Xplore the IRL. Reviewing and understanding data is an important part of the Committee's work. While not a statistician, I am a member of the editorial board of the journal Population Health Management and have reviewed countless studies submitted to the journal for publication during my 12-plus year tenure. My current class at the University and many of my speaking engagements are on "Value-Based Care", determining the value of specific health interventions and technologies, which again is similar to the value determinations of the various projects proposed for the Lagoon. I have also done significant analytic work throughout my career including a project where I developed an Access Database to analyze two years of Medicaid medical claims data for one State representing over 600,000 Medicaid lives including importing and analyzing all inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy claims (15 million pharmacy claims alone) to identify individuals with one of four chronic diseases, their costs and utilization of services, as well as gaps in care and other metrics. The report I generated was used by the State to determine the potential impact of various interventions and later to develop an RFP for services. Again, similar to the work the committee does to determine the potential benefits of the various interventions. My work as a consultant requires me to generate consensus to help my clients make changes and move organizations forward. I have also served as the Chair of the Board and Interim CEO for the Population Health Alliance, an international non-profit trade association. This position required the ability to work with many different people and companies from around the US and the world to build consensus on the organization's work, topics, and reports.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

The work of committee members must be of the highest ethical level. There are hundreds of millions of dollars being expended on behalf of the community. As mentioned in the question, even "perceived conflicts" can lead to mistrust and potential failure of the efforts to restore the lagoon. My reputation is everything to me and has been developed in over 40 years in healthcare. I have written about the need for greater ethics in healthcare. This same approach will be brought to this position. In my consulting work, I have always sought to ensure that my activities are not in conflict or perceived to represent a conflict of interest between my various clients. I ensure appropriate confidentiality and recognize when potential conflicts, of interest may arise. My work with the University of Mississippi Medical Center includes a clear conflict of interest statement regarding my company and its work, my relationship with the University, and how I cannot use my university relationship to enhance my consulting business. I have had conversations with the Dean of the program discussing specific instances to ensure I stay compliant.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Fred Goldstein is the President of Accountable Health, LLC a Population Health Consulting firm. His previous work includes serving as a hospital CEO, the GM/VP of an HMO, and founding a disease management company. He and his wife Laura's love of this area brought them from Jacksonville to Merritt Island in 2022. Fred has always had an interest in marine biology and received a BA in Zoology with a focus on marine biology from the University of California at Berkeley. After moving to Merritt Island, he founded Xplore the IRL, a social media channel to share the work others are doing to restore the Indian River Lagoon, as well as the amazing places, activities, plants, and wildlife of the area. He has 3 children and 4 grandchildren and enjoys fishing, paddleboarding, boating, and other outdoor activities.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Goldstein\\_Recommendations\\_3.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No



**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

See above specific to SOIRL COC

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

See above specific to SOIRL COC

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

[Fred Goldstein - Resume.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree



## FREDERIC S. GOLDSTEIN

m: 904-613-1224

e: fgoldstein@accountablehealthllc.com

### EXECUTIVE LEADER: OPERATIONS

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT | INNOVATION | EXCELLENCE

**A leader who achieves success** building strong financial and operational organizations by aligning purpose, identifying areas in need of improvement, and motivating teams to develop solutions. *Expertise includes:*

- Population Health/Care Mgmt.
- Operations Improvement
- Medicaid
- New Program Development
- Contract and Payment models
- Mental/Behavioral Health
- Mobile/Digital Health
- Government Relations
- Analytics

### KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- As President of Specialty Disease Management Services (SDM), founded the company and grew services into 12 States with 75 employees. Merged into U.S. Preventive Medicine and named President. Developed Chronic care management programs for 10 diseases and conditions, developed IT, analytics, and reporting platform. Provided Remote Patient Monitoring in 2004 to members with CHF and COPD. Named 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest-growing private company by Jacksonville Business Journal in 2003.
- As General Manager increased Coventry/Healthcare USA Medicaid HMO membership 100%, doubled revenue, expanded operations to four new counties and contracted with hospitals, physicians, and other providers. Led major operational fixes in medical management, credentialing, and voluntary disenrollment rates. Launched commercial health plan, awarded Medicare Choices demonstration project, rated highest quality Medicaid plan in the State of Florida, out of 22 plans.
- As President of SDM managed all operations including sales, leading to winning eight of the 1<sup>st</sup> nine State Medicaid Disease Management contracts, also contracted with major large employers. Partnered with McKesson Health Solutions. As a hospital CEO increased hospital occupancy from mid 60% to 100%.
- Developed IT system for a disease management company and oversaw development for a population health company. Personally analyzed two years of medical inpatient, outpatient and pharmacy claims data to identify 4 chronic disease states, costs, and various utilization metrics for a State Medicaid program with 675,000 lives.
- Industry Leader in Population Health, care management and Value-based Care: Instructor at the Bower School of Population Health at the University of Mississippi Medical Center teaching in the Executive Masters in Population Health Management Program. Courses taught – Alternative Payment Models, ACOs, patient-generated health data, patient-reported outcomes, and patient-centered care. Editorial Board Member Population Health Management Journal.
- As President of SDM testified before 4 State healthcare legislative committees resulting in Medicaid RFP releases. Directly responsible for the inclusion of the Annual Medicare Wellness Visit in the Affordable Care Act.
- Managed companies with up to 500 employees.

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### President and Founder – Accountable Health, LLC

2012-Present

**Accountable Health LLC is a leading population health consulting firm providing services to healthcare systems, IT companies, start-ups, pharmaceutical manufacturers, trade associations, universities, and other consulting firms.**

- Work with Baylor University and St. Edwards University on re-opening and operating plans during the COVID Pandemic.
- Strategic expertise provided to an international consulting firm with \$44 billion in revenue. Served as population health management expert reviewing and recommending care management programs for the integration of recently purchased Medicaid Health plan with the acquiring Healthcare system.
- Defined the operational needs for a population health management IT platform being developed by a large IT company with over 900 hospital clients.
- Expanded a Care Management companies limited disease management focused IT system and program to a comprehensive population health system and program and trained their staff on Population Health.

**President – U.S. Preventive Medicine, Inc. (USPM)**

2007-2012

***USPM is a comprehensive employee health improvement company with a product called The Prevention Plan (now the Preventive Plan) that was built on the science of Preventive Medicine.***

**Integrated SDM into USPM after the acquisition** - Oversaw the development of the online platform and sales of The Prevention Plan product, managed all areas of the company including IT, Finance, Health Services, and Sales.

- Oversaw the development of a comprehensive employee health improvement platform from initial design through programming to operational use.
- Headed sales to large clients including AON and the State of Nevada.
- Oversaw development of Macaw, a mobile health app, serving as the key liaison between U.S. Preventive Medicine and Qualcomm in co-development. Macaw was the CTIA Hot for the Holidays 2011 Selection and the winner of the CES Mobile App Showdown.
- The company was awarded NCQA Accreditation with Outcomes.

**President and Founder - Specialty Disease Management Services, Inc. (SDM)**

1997-2007

***SDM was the leading provider of community-based disease management services to Medicaid and served commercial clients.*** Built this company from an idea to 75 employees serving Medicaid and Commercial clients with operations in 12 States managing persons with 10 Chronic diseases or conditions. Merged SDM into USPM.

- Developed community-based chronic disease management programs including 1<sup>st</sup> programs for HIV/AIDS (FL), and Schizophrenia (CO) in Medicaid.
- Developed a software system that integrated member demographics, inpatient, outpatient, and pharmacy claims, biometrics and lab results, risk stratification, Evidence-Based Medicine, care plans, member contacts, and reporting. Reports developed for internal use, for the clients, as well as the physicians and provider groups.
- Identified fraud in Medicaid HIV/AIDS program resulting in the State saving \$3 million per quarter.
- Programs operated in inner cities, rural communities, on Native American/American Indian reservations and for employers. Staff worked with individuals who spoke 65 different primary languages. Attended a Two Worlds Collide cultural immersion program on the Crow reservation and hired 1<sup>st</sup> certified promotoras in the state of Texas.
- Achieved URAC Disease Management Accreditation.

**Vice President/GM - Coventry/HealthCare USA**

***HealthCare USA was an Innovative Medicaid Pre-paid plan that was rated the highest quality Medicaid plan in 1995 and 1996 by the State of Florida. It grew to 29,000 members in Florida and operations in Missouri. Sold to Coventry in July of 1995.*** Oversaw all the operations in Florida and assisted with the start-up of the Missouri health plan. Direct reports included Health Services and Chief Medical Officer, Provider Relations, Network Development and contracting, Quality, Community Education, Planning, Government Relations, and Credentialing. Worked with Member Services, IT, and Finance.

- Grew business from 14,000 to 29,000 members in 19 months.
- Expanded from 10 to 14 counties in Northeast Florida.
- Reduced member voluntary disenrollment rate from 6% per month to 0.6% per month.
- Achieved the highest quality rating of 22 Medicaid plans by the State of Florida, with scores of 98% and 100% in the two years.
- Re-contracted Mental Health Services resulting in a 40% reduction in costs, better network, and improved quality scores.
- Awarded Commercial HMO License, Medicare Choices Demonstration project (negotiated a globally capitated contract with an integrated healthcare system) and achieved NCQA accreditation.
- Established early disease management programs for high-risk maternity and asthma.

**Hospital Administration - The Retreat, Charter Medical, Republic Health Corporation**

CEO positions at Psychiatric and Medical-Surgical hospitals for three corporations. Oversaw all operational components.

**EDUCATION**

Trinity University, San Antonio | Master of Science, Health Care Administration  
University of California at Berkeley | Bachelor of Arts, Zoology

Dec. 16, 2024

Re: Recommendation for Fred Goldstein for COC Membership

Dear Lagoon Supporters:

The Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (BIRLC) has been working with Fred Goldstein for the past six months or more on a variety of matters related to the restoration of the Lagoon. We have been very pleased with his creativity, energy and diligence in all the work that we have done together and are proud to endorse him as a prospective member of the SOIRL Citizens Oversight Committee (COC).

Our initial engagement with Fred took place as he was launching his “Xplore the IRL” (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61555422500877>). We were encouraged and are impressed with the quality and range of the video posts that he has done to help explain and introduce aspects of the Lagoon to a broad general audience. We are especially grateful for the long form interviews he has done with numerous leaders working on the Lagoon (see: <https://www.youtube.com/@XploretheIRL/videos>) and support his initiatives like the upcoming clean-up of an area known as “Tire Island” near Cocoa Beach.

We believe his background as a senior executive and consultant to the healthcare industry give him skills and experience that will be useful to the COC and SOIRL in its work. His resume illustrates how he has been instrumental in developing powerful collaborations to solve complex problems involving multiple stakeholders. This experience should fit well with the important work the COC does, especially because he has a lifelong personal interest in Marine Biology.

Finally, working with Fred is fun and his active enjoyment of the Lagoon on and off his paddleboard is infectious for those he works with.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend Fred Goldstein as a COC member.

Lew Kontnik, Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (BIRLC), Vice Chair  
<https://www.facebook.com/BIRLC/>  
@HelpTheLagoon  
HelpTheLagoon.org  
<https://twitter.com/HelpTheLagoon>  
CoFounder, Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Roundtable  
<https://irlroundtable.com/>  
LewKontnik@gmail.com  
H/O 321 775 3327, C 805 558 2295

12/16/24

To Whom It May Concern,

It is my pleasure to recommend Fred Goldstein for a position on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee. I first met Fred at a Marine Resource Center gathering where he asked me if I'd be interested in and available for a video interview for his online media channel, Xplore the IRL. During the interview I was immediately struck by his knowledge of Lagoon restoration, his passion for the restoration and conservation of the Indian River Lagoon, as well as his ability to engage audiences in meaningful discussions about environmental stewardship.

Fred possesses a rare combination of expertise and experience that makes him uniquely suited for a trusted role in SOIRL. With a degree in Zoology focusing on Marine Biology, Fred brings scientific knowledge and a deep-rooted commitment to understanding and preserving marine ecosystems. His extensive career in healthcare, including leadership roles such as hospital CEO and healthcare consultant, has given him a keen understanding of working within heavily regulated industries—a skill directly applicable to working within government.

Additionally, Fred's communication skills are exceptional. As the host of various media platforms, including radio shows, podcasts, and online channels, he has consistently demonstrated his ability to translate complex topics into accessible, engaging content. His commitment to public education and community engagement is evident in his work with Xplore the IRL, where he showcases local conservation efforts and inspires action among viewers.

Fred's background in program development, data analysis, and consensus building further strengthens his qualifications. His ability to evaluate projects critically, foster collaboration, and communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders ensures he will contribute meaningfully to issues prevented to SOIRL.

I wholeheartedly support Fred's application and have every confidence that he will bring his passion, expertise, and integrity to this important role. Please feel free to contact me if you need further information or insight.

Sincerely,

*Vinnie Taranto Jr*

Vinnie Taranto Jr



16 December 2024

Dear SOIRL COC Selection Committee,

I am very pleased to provide this letter of recommendation in support of Fred Goldstein's application for the SOIRL Citizen Oversight Committee. I met Fred very soon after joining the Indian River Lagoon committee in June 2024 and was immediately impressed with his passion, knowledge, and activism concerning the Indian River Lagoon. I have enjoyed getting to know him during the 21st IRL Action Assembly and through his Xplore the IRL videos, and working alongside him at Marine Resources Council volunteer and community outreach events. With a diverse background combining science, public health, executive management, and science communication, Fred would be an excellent addition to the Oversight Committee.

Fred's passion for the Indian River Lagoon is well demonstrated through his volunteer work with nonprofits across the region (Marine Resources Council being just one of several) and his social media presence through Xplore the IRL. These activities alone embrace two of the most important things our Lagoon needs: action and education. Combining local activity with regional communication also means that Fred is able to understand Lagoon problems and solutions on multiple scales—from what an individual can see and do using their paddleboard to how municipalities can impart regional change. I believe that these perspectives will allow him to effectively envision and oversee long term infrastructure projects while connecting with individual citizens.

All that being said, Fred is more than just his work in and around the Indian River Lagoon. As healthcare executive, he has worked with multi-million dollar budgets, overseen the implementation and completion of multi-year projects, and communicated project plans and needs up and down the chain. His executive healthcare background also means he has experience working with multiple stakeholders to bring about resolution while remaining fiscally responsible. Additionally, Fred's work with population health gives him a unique insight into the environmental effects of the Lagoon on the well-being of our community members.

I strongly urge you to consider Fred Goldstein's application for the SOIRL Citizen Oversight Committee and consider all that he can bring to the table. As a citizen of Brevard, he is exactly who I would want overseeing tax-funded Indian River Lagoon projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura E. Wilson", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr. Laura Wilson  
Executive Director

3275 Dixie Hwy NE, Palm Bay, FL 32905 • 321.725.7775



---

## Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Richard	Middle Initial	Nipper	Last Name
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rnip261@gmail.com  
Email Address

614 Hyannie Street Northeast	Suite or Apt
------------------------------	--------------

Palm Bay	FL	32907
City	State	Postal Code

Home: (321) 961-1641	Alternate Phone
----------------------	-----------------

### How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

36

### To which Commissioner are you applying?

☒ N/A

### Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

☒ Yes ☐ No

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## Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I utilize the Indian river for boating, fishing, and entertainment. I have seen the deterioration of the Indian River over the past few decades and believe this program is good for the restoration of what the citizens were able to enjoy.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

---

I have over 40 years in the water and wastewater industry. I have experience in all aspects of water resources, distribution, treatment, reclamation of the wastewater and byproducts. I began my career as an operator trainee in Orange County in 1981, came to Palm Bay as the Superintendent of wastewater in 1989 and left as Assistant Utility Director. I started with the Toho Water Authority in 1989 as Operations Manager and was Vice President of all Field Services, Operations, and Maintenance when I left for my current position as District Manager with the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

---

I have strong team building record with teams throughout my career, both the lead and participant. I served on the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District in the mid 2000's. I have also served on several utility committees, including Chair of the Utility Management Committee for the Florida Water Environment Association. One must be sure to place the duties as a committee member above any personal values, using sound judgement based on fact. Any conflicts should be brought up early in any communications that come before a committee to allow for recusal or at a minimum transparency.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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Transparency is vital when servicing the public. Any conflicts should be brought before the group to decide whether there is a perceived or real conflict allowing for recusal of participating or voting on an issue.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

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Rick Nipper has served as the District Manager for the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District since February 2023. Prior to that he has over 40 years in the water and wastewater utility business. He began his career in 1981 as an operator trainee and has earned experience in every aspect of the water, wastewater, and reclaim water utilities. He attended college while working to earn his Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management and left the Utility Industry as Vice President of Field Services, Operations, and Maintenance for Toho Water Authority to be closer to home in Palm Bay.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following**In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \*

- ☒ Email  
☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Rick Nipper Reference VJ.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

Not at this time.

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

Not to my knowledge

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Environmental Protection is important to me personally and professionally. My utility is fundamentally focused on Environmental Protection.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I have worked in the water and wastewater field for over 40 years. I started as an operator trainee in 1981 and worked my way up to Vice President of a large utility in Central Florida. I obtained a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management with a minor in Public Administrations. I have served on several utility committee's and acted as Chairman of the Florida Water Environment Federations Utility Management Committee for several years. I have served on the Melbourne Tillman Water Control District for a three year term in the Mid 2000's. I was a volunteer coach for several Palm Bay youth groups for many years. I have a class A Wastewater Treatment Operators License.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

N/A

[ResumeRichardNipper.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

---

## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### **Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree



• **Operations Executive** • **Transformational Leader** • **Relationship Facilitator**

Proactive and results-driven senior leader with 42 years of experience in the water and wastewater industry. I can deliver change and results across different lines of business and bring about growth while engaging with and motivating teams across an organization.

Led the growth of the Operations department from 60 FTE employees to 300 FTE employees (400% growth over 15 years).

Scope of responsibilities grew from 11 treatment plants and 200 lift stations to 26 treatment plants, 600 lift stations, and the management of the Field Operations division.

Led the systems maintenance team in the creation of the in-house lift station construction crew that results in an \$1,200,000 savings for the utility on an annual basis.

Toho facilities have been recognized for a several industry awards during my tenure.

Led the development and deployment of the skill-based pay programs for several teams that have resulted in a well-trained workforce that is well compensated and with low turnover.

Managed the development and implementation of the ISO 14001 certification program for the treatment plants and lift stations.

Managed the successful integration of the Poinciana and St. Cloud services areas into the Operations department.

Recognized the importance of asset management and developed an internal position to improve the department's efforts in improving asset management.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Toho Water Authority | 2007 - Present

#### Senior Director of Operations | 2020- Present

As part of the senior leadership team, I work closely with our executive director and two other senior directors to guide the organization through this next phase of its growth plan. This involves responding to current challenges and opportunities, planning for future needs, and motivating and guiding staff. In addition to managing the Operations department, I am also heavily involved in:

- Strategic Planning
- Risk Mitigation and Planning
- Building relationships with regional partners
- Performance Management and establishment of Key Performance Indicators
- Emergency Response (EOC) Operations On Site Lead

#### Director of Operations | 2007 - 2020

Responsibilities include all aspects in the management of treatment operations, maintenance, budgeting, environmental compliance with a staff of 300 for:

- 16 water treatment plants
- 10 wastewater treatment plants
- 600 lift stations
- Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA)
- Contract Administration and liaison for Poinciana Utility area until Toho acquired the maintenance and operations contract in 2010.
- Leading and coordinating multiple projects with Toho staff, consultants, vendors, regulatory agencies, and board of supervisors.
- Expanding the role of asset management within the Operations department
- Leadership for the biosolids management initiatives
- Leadership for the reuse management initiatives
- Management of the NEELAC certified laboratory

	<p><b>City of Palm Bay   1989 - 2007</b></p> <p><b>Assistant Utility Director</b>                      <b>2005-2007</b></p> <p><b>Interim Utility Director</b>                      <b>2004-2005</b></p> <p><b>Operations Manager</b>                      <b>1992 - 2004</b></p> <p><b>Wastewater Superintendent</b>                      <b>1989 -1992</b></p> <p>Responsibilities through my career with the City of Palm Bay included all aspects maintenance, operations and field services, accounting, budgeting, and directing a staff of 95 employees. Some examples of duties and accomplishments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative of the City with consultants to evaluate and purchase the General Development Utility and all legal matters pertaining for the Utilities.</li> <li>• Provided presentations describing the Utility and business plan to financial institutions for the 2007 series Bond issue for the Water Treatment Plant, Wastewater Treatment Plant, Administration Building, and Infrastructure improvements.</li> <li>• Managed the construction of the 10 MGD Reverse Osmosis water treatment plant, deep injection well, and administrative building funded by the 2007 bond issue.</li> <li>• Presentations to City Counsel, Homeowner associations for the utility assessment program, and other public forums.</li> <li>• 10 MGD Lime Softening water treatment plant.</li> </ul> <p><b>Orange County Utilities   1981-1989</b></p> <p><b>Wastewater Treatment Plant lead operator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participated in construction inspections and startup of three (3) award-winning wastewater treatment plant processes.</li> <li>• Supervised shift operations and participated in budget process.</li> </ul>
<b>EDUCATION</b>	BA, Organizational Management, Minor Public Administration, Warner College
<b>AFFILIATIONS</b>	<p>Former Board Member - Melbourne Tillman Water Control District</p> <p>Former chairman, Florida Water Environment Association FWEA</p> <p>Water Environment Federation (WEF) - Utility Management Committee</p> <p>American Water Works Association (AWWA)</p>



Veronica Jensen  
3580 Hickory Tree Road  
St. Cloud, FL 34772  
[Vejensen103@gmail.com](mailto:Vejensen103@gmail.com)  
407-301-9856

December 11, 2024

Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program

Dear SOIRL Committee members,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Rick Nipper for a position to serve on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) oversight committee. Having worked closely with him for over a decade, I can confidently speak to his exceptional leadership and dedication.

I began my professional journey under Rick's guidance in 2008, shortly after graduating from college. From the outset, he demonstrated an unwavering commitment to nurturing talent and fostering a collaborative and innovative work environment. His ability to recognize and cultivate potential in his team is unparalleled. Throughout my tenure at Toho Water Authority, he guided me through various roles and responsibilities.

Beyond his role as a leader, Rick served as a mentor who profoundly impacted my career and personal growth. He encouraged me to pursue my MBA, providing the support and flexibility needed to balance work and studies. It was under his mentorship that I transitioned into management, a career milestone that I attribute significantly to his guidance and encouragement.

Even now, as I work with a different employer, I continue to see the positive influence of Rick's mentorship in my professional endeavors. The leadership skills, strategic thinking, and commitment to excellence that he instilled in me are evident in the initiatives I lead today.

Rick's passion for environmental causes and protection are evident in his values. His ability to inspire others and drive meaningful change aligns well with the mission of your organization. I am confident that his strategic vision, combined with his dedication to environmental causes, will make him a valuable addition to your committee.

In summary, I wholeheartedly endorse Rick Nipper for a role in the oversight committee. His proven track record of leadership, mentorship, and commitment to sustainability makes him an ideal candidate. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Thank you for considering my recommendation.

Sincerely,



Veronica Jensen, MBA, PMP

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Dr.

Prefix

Joachim

First Name

P

Middle  
Initial

Roesler

Last Name

joeroesler@gmail.com

Email Address

124 N Center St

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Millerton

City

NY

State

12546

Postal Code

Mobile: (305) 318-2369

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

Not yet - but I own property in Micco

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

---

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Science  
☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

- I would like to see the water of the IRL restored to full health. - I would like to learn more about the specific issues challenging the IRL. - I can contribute a deep, scientific & commercial background about all things Biochar and Activated Carbon.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

I am scientifically and technologically educated, with Master and PhD degrees, and am used to immersing myself in new challenges and learning opportunities. I have acquired hands-on expertise in the chemistry, manufacturing and application of bio-based Activated Carbons, and to some degree in their application for environmental remediation.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I have successfully worked in large and small organizations, both commercial and non-profit. My tendency is to work analytically and be thorough. I have had the opportunity to accumulate and learn from +30 years of business management and people leadership experiences. I keep getting re-elected as president of the Mt.Brace Outdoor Club (a non-profit community organization in upstate New York).

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

I believe that the avoidance of conflicts of interest is paramount. I will disclose any affiliations I have, and recuse myself from any decisions should they carry any conflict potential.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Dr. Roesler has served as an executive on the boards of several international companies, among others as CEO of Scientific American Magazine. His name is on several patents in the realm of chemical processing, he also holds a MBA degree. Roesler is an expert in the manufacturing of adsorptive carbons, as used in water filtration and environmental remediation. Dr. Roesler splits his time between upstate New York and Brevard County, where he has been fishing on the IRL since 2002.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

- ☒ Email
- ☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Roesler Recommendations.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

None

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

I am on the board of Green Carbon Solutions, LLC, a Indiantown, FL company. GCS is a biochar provider to the Florida Institute of Technology, a private university in Melbourne, FL. Related FIT research projects concern mainly water issues, including of the IRL.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

I have lived full time in Florida from 2002 to 2008, and since 2014 I own property in Micco, Brevard County. I have been fishing on the IRL since 2002, and remember it being in better shape. I intend to retire to Florida, enjoying time on the water, inshore and offshore, sailing and fishing. Selfishly, I would like the waters of Florida to be in their best possible condition. Also, since over 15 years I am professionally active in the area of biochar, activated carbon, adsorptive media, and sustainable means of environmental remediation.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I was born in Germany, have a business education incl. MBA and PhD, and have enjoyed a professional +25yr career in magazine publishing. I have served as CEO of Scientific American Magazine. I am currently on the board of Green Carbon Solutions (GCS), an Indiantown based manufacturer of renewable carbon media. The primary market for GCS' products are the alloy industries, where bio-carbon is starting to replace fossil based carbons. I am a long-time member of the Mt.Brace Outdoor Club, a community organization in Millerton, NY.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

None

[Roesler Joachim\\_Oct2024.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

---

☒ I Agree



## DR. JOACHIM P. ROESLER

124 N Center St.  
Millerton, NY 12546  
(305) 318-2369  
JoeRoesler@NewPolymerSystems.com

---

For much of the last thirty-five years I have worked on the technical and operations side of large and small companies. I am fluent in German and English, have my name on several patents involving pyrolysis and chemical processing, and also hold a MBA degree. After an earlier career in science publishing I have worked over the last fifteen years in my favorite field of composite and compound technologies, as well as related recycling technologies.

### Professional Experience

- |                |   |                |
|----------------|---|----------------|
| 1/2023-present | <b>Green Carbon Solutions, LLC.</b><br><b>EVP Technology.</b> GCS manufactures high purity bio-carbons for industrial and other uses. Purpose grown biomass is converted via pyrolysis into biochar, bio-oil, and bio-energy. Major users of biochar include the ferrosilicon, steel, building and polymer industries. Major focus is on post-processing of biochar and bio-oil, including densification and distillation.          | Indiantown, FL |
| 1/2013-present | <b>JoR Services LLC.</b><br><b>President.</b> Providing consulting services for selected composite, compound and recycling industries. Studies about various size reduction technologies, as well as alternate compounding and densification technologies for the inclusion of bio materials. Major focus on pyrolysis (high heat, no oxygen) as recycling technology for complex composites.                                       | Millerton, NY  |
| 1/2013–8/2018  | <b>Modern Recovery Systems, Inc.</b><br><b>Co-Founder, Chief Scientist.</b> Business and technology development leadership in company focused on inventing processes for the recycling of highly filled polymers via pyrolysis. Application of new recycling technology to roofing shingles and carbon fiber composites. First commercially-sized carbon fiber recycling plant (via pyrolysis) is now operating near Knoxville, TN. | Bethel, CT     |
| 7/2008–present | <b>New Polymer Systems, Inc.</b><br><b>Principal, Co-Founder.</b> R&D focused company active in advancing and licensing certain Germany-based polymer additive technologies. Significant work developing many thermal modification, size reduction and compounding technologies for creating the most useful materials to function as bio-based fillers for polymers.   | Indiantown, FL |



8/2006-6/2008	<b>Televisa Publishing</b> <b>Chief Operating Officer.</b> Public company, NYSE traded. Publisher of many Spanish language and a few English language titles for Hispanic audiences, including licenses and joint ventures with titles like National Geographic.	<b>Miami, FL</b>
4/2002-8/2006	<b>World Publications</b> <b>Chief Operating Officer and CFO.</b> Company doubled in size from 2002 to 2006. Venture Capital investment in 2001, liquidity event in 2006.	<b>Winter Park, FL</b>
2001-3/2002	<b>MIT Technology Review</b> Consulting work with focus on launch of international editions in Germany, Italy, China and Japan.	<b>Cambridge, MA</b>
1996 - 2000	<b>SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, Inc.</b> <b>CEO, President and Group Publisher.</b> Growth initiatives with new magazines, new ventures, licenses, international expansion and profitable circulation growth.	<b>New York, NY</b>
1990 - 1995	<b>Gruner + Jahr / Bertelsmann</b> <b>CFO and COO.</b> Line responsibility for all financial and publishing aspects.	<b>New York, NY</b>
1986 - 1990	<b>Gruner + Jahr / Bertelsmann</b> Assistant to the CEO. Various projects, including coordination of international publishing interests, M&A studies.	<b>Hamburg, GERMANY</b>

#### Other

#### Experience

1982 - 1986	<b>Christian Albrechts Universität</b> Research trimester in Stanford, Palo Alto. Ph.D. degree in 1986. Published my own and other author's dissertations as well as instructional books on business topics.	<b>Kiel, GERMANY</b>
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#### Education

1977 - 1982	<b>Christian-Albrechts-Universität</b> Studied Economics, Business Administration and Computer Sciences. Bachelor degrees in Economics and Business Administration. MBA degree in 1982 ("Diplom-Kaufmann").	<b>Kiel, GERMANY</b>
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902 Battelle Boulevard  
P.O. Box 999, MSIN K2-44  
Richland, WA 99352  
[www.pnnl.gov](http://www.pnnl.gov)

Re: *Save Our Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee* & Dr. Joachim P. Roesler

To Whom It May Concern

I am glad to be writing this reference letter in support of Dr. Joachim P. Roesler for the purpose of his possible appointment to the Committee mentioned above. Given the specific issues the Indian River Lagoon is dealing with, I believe that Dr. Roesler would be able to contribute highly relevant, much-needed knowledge.

Just a brief introduction for myself, I have 32 years of professional experience in academia, industries, and national labs. I have 10 patents, 3 books, 20 book chapters, and more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and I am very glad to provide a recommendation letter to Dr. Joachim P. Roesler. I know Joachim as a reliable expert in all things biochar, and in the related chemical processing, which is why we have been cooperating on many scientific projects since 2012. For example, a current PNNL initiative and DOE priority, in which we both act as (2 out of 4) principal investigators, is looking at the potential use of biochar and innovative polymers to enhance the properties of Cold Mixed Asphalt, while reducing the environmental impact of asphalts in road construction.

It would be fantastic if the unique Indian River Lagoon could be restored to its former health, an endeavor I fully support, and wish you much success in pursuing.

Sincerely,

Samy Madbouly

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samy Madbouly". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Dr. Samy Madbouly  
Senior Materials Scientist  
Environment and Energy Directorate  
Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), USA  
Email: [samy.madbouly@pnnl.gov](mailto:samy.madbouly@pnnl.gov); Tel: (509) 375-2306

104 Bailey Drive  
North Branford, CT

Save Our Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
2725 Judge Fran Jamison Way  
Viera Florida 32940

Subject: Recommendation for Joachim Roesler-Citizens Oversight  
Committee

Dear Commissioner Brevard County Administration,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Joachim Roesler for a position on the Citizens Oversight Committee. Having known JoR for approximately 15 years as a mentor, neighbor and friend, I can confidently vouch for his exceptional qualifications and unwavering dedication to serving the community.

In his capacity as president of the Brace Paragliding Cub, he has worked closely with the Park Services in our community. Through his collaborative effort, he actively contributes to preserving the pristine environment and maintaining the flying site. JoR is well known for offering guidance improving individual practices to promote safe flying. Jo R has extensive expertise in weather patterns and conditions which he readily shares with others. He has shown an extraordinary ability to connect with diverse groups and foster collaborative relationships that drive positive change.

In addition, JoR possesses outstanding communication skills. Whether engaging in one on one communication, speaking at public forums or drafting well-articulated correspondence, he excels at conveying complex information in a clear, accessible manner. These skills would undoubtedly prove invaluable in fostering transparent and effective communication within the committee and the broader community.

Furthermore, JoR has exemplary critical thinking abilities. He approaches challenges with a balanced perspective, meticulously analyzing details, evaluating potential outcomes and developing thoughtful solutions. This skill ensures that he makes decisions grounded in fairness, reason and the best interests of all stakeholders.

In summary, JoR embodies the qualities essential for serving on the Citizens Oversight Committee : a deep rooted commitment to community welfare, exceptional communication proficiency and sharp critical thinking skills. I am confident that these contributions would significantly enhance the effectiveness and integrity of the committee's work.

Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

Thank you for considering this outstanding candidate

Sincerely,

*Leslie Blatt*

Leslie Blatt

203-915-1410

[leslieblatt@comcast.net](mailto:leslieblatt@comcast.net)

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Mark		Schrope
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

mschrope@schmidtmarine.org

Email Address

8592 Sylvan Dr.	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Melbourne	FL	32904
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: (407) 376-4678	Business: (321) 956-8431
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

23 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ District 5

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Science
- ☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I love the water and I have enjoyed spending time on and around Indian River Lagoon for the majority of 53 years, as a boater and fisherman. It has been painful to see the lagoon's decline over the past several years and I would like to make a positive contribution to reversing that trend. I also believe that my current work, as detailed below, will enable me to bring new ideas for improving lagoon health from areas around the country and the world.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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My life and career have always revolved around the water. I began my career working as a chemical oceanographer after receiving my master's degree from Florida State University. At my first job as a lab manager at the College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science, I studied the causes of pollution-related algal blooms in the Chesapeake Bay region. I left Virginia and moved back home to Florida to begin working full-time as a writer. This included about a decade as a freelance journalist writing for publications such as Nature and Popular Science, and for several years as the communications writer for Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution in Fort Pierce. Those jobs gave me the opportunity to study all aspects of coastal waters, and to personally learn about a wide range of Indian River research efforts. Ten years ago I shifted to philanthropy and now work as the director of Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, a program of The Schmidt Family Foundation that funds the development of technologies to address ocean problems. In that capacity I have visited and learned about distressed coastal systems around the world, and I have personally overseen the distribution of millions in funding for the development of technologies to address these problems. All of this I believe will give me a unique and broad perspective on ways to solve Indian River Lagoon health issues.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

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Through my work as a writer I've learned to take a step back from difficult issues to take in the full context and the ranges of opinions that typically exist. This helps me avoid snap judgements to hopefully focus on the roots of and solutions for problematic issues. I also consider myself something of a peacemaker, able to interact respectfully with a wide range of people and often make good connections between them based on taking the time to deeply understand an issue.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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In my own work I value the input of people who might have a particular conflict of interest on a given topic, but I believe that, whenever possible, it is essential that people with no such conflicts make final decisions on major funding decisions. Because my salary comes from a California-based group, and I have absolutely no financial ties to any relevant technologies, I believe I'll be able to provide that kind of objective input.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Mark Schrope is the director of Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, which provides long-term support for the development of promising solutions for ocean health problems. Since its founding in 2015, Schmidt Marine, a program of the Schmidt Family Foundation, has funded more than 80 development efforts. Mark began his career studying deep-ocean carbon cycling and harmful algal blooms at The College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science, after receiving a B.S. in biology from Wake Forest, and an M.S. in chemical oceanography from Florida State. Later he shifted to ocean and tech focused journalism and communications. Mark's articles have appeared in Nature, Scientific American, Popular Science, The New York Times, The Washington Post, IEEE Spectrum, Chemical & Engineering News, and numerous other publications. Assignments took him to the seafloor by submersible, to remote islands, and by plane through the eye of a hurricane. He also consulted for clients such as the Scripps Research Institute, Sea Grant, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, and Yale University. He has worked on over a dozen research vessels on expeditions around the world, and is a fellow of the Explorers Club.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Mark Schrope\\_rec\\_1.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No



**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

My life and career have always revolved around the water. I began my career working as a chemical oceanographer after receiving my master's degree from Florida State University. At my first job as a lab manager at the College of William and Mary's Virginia Institute of Marine Science, one task was studying causes of pollution-related pfiesteria and other algal blooms in the Chesapeake Bay Region. I left Virginia to begin working full-time as a writer, including about a decade as a freelance journalist writing for publications such as Nature and Popular Science, and for several years as the communications writer for Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution. Those jobs gave me the opportunity to study all aspects of coastal waters, and to personally research and witness a wide range of Indian River research efforts. Ten years ago I shifted to philanthropy and now work as the director of Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, a program of The Schmidt Family Foundation. In that capacity I have had the opportunity to visit and learn about distressed coastal systems around the world, and I have personally overseen the distribution of millions in funding for the development of technologies to address these problems. All of this I believe will give me a unique and broad perspective on ways to solve Indian River Lagoon health issues.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

As noted above, I have a master's degree in chemical oceanography, and have done ocean-related work my whole career. This has allowed given me a deep understanding of the issues facing Indian River Lagoon. I also worked for many years as a writer covering numerous challenging scientific and technical topics. This helps me to understand difficult issues and explain them clearly to a broad range of people.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

none

[Schrope-resume-12-2024.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

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**Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

Mark Schrope



**MARK KEVIN SCHROPE**

8592 Sylvan Dr., Melbourne, Florida 32904

Office: (321) 956-8431

Mobile: (407) 376-4678

[mschrope@schmidtmarine.org](mailto:mschrope@schmidtmarine.org)

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- 2015 - present**     **Director, Schmidt Marine Technology Partners, San Francisco.**  
We created this program within the Schmidt Family Foundation to enable and accelerate development of technologies that solve a range of problems in the marine environment ([www.schmidtmarine.org](http://www.schmidtmarine.org)). I oversee all aspects of the program, including managing two full-time employees, multiple business and other consultants, and a San Francisco office space (though I remain Florida based). My work for the program has included surveying the field to seek out the most promising marine technology ideas, evaluating potential, and leading the distribution of a \$15 million annual grants budget.
- 2000 - 2015**     **President, Open Water Media, Inc., Melbourne, FL.** I founded the company to provide outreach, public relations, and other services to groups seeking to reach target audiences with materials and messages that were easily understandable, technically accurate, and engaging. Clients included The Scripps Research Institute, Duke University, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, Yale University, the National Sea Grant Program, Pew Charitable Trusts, The Living Oceans Foundation, NASA, Schmidt Ocean Institute, and the Ocean Research and Conservation Association.
- 1998 - 2016**     **Freelance Journalist & Photographer.** I wrote hundreds of articles for general and scientific audiences, the bulk of which focused on ocean topics. My work has appeared in *Nature*, *Outside*, *New Scientist*, *Scientific American*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Popular Science*, *Science News for Students*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Sport Diver*, *Scuba Diving*, *Slate*, *Caribbean Travel & Life*, *National Geographic.com*, *Smithsonian.com*, and other publications. My photographs appeared in a number of these outlets as well including *Nature*, *The Washington Post*, and *The New York Times*. I was a co-author of *The Science Writer's Handbook: Everything You Need to Know to Pitch, Publish, and Prosper in the Digital Age*, and I have appeared as a non-partisan ocean science expert on *PBS Newshour*, *The Rachel Maddow Show*, and various regional TV and radio shows. For a nearly complete list of past articles, please visit the "Clips" section of: [www.MarkSchrope.com](http://www.MarkSchrope.com).
- 2002 - 2006**     **Science Writer (Public Relations Director), Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institution, Fort Pierce, FL.** I designed and implemented strategies for raising the institution's profile regionally, nationally, and internationally. This included extensive work with media and documentary groups, and production of related print and web materials in collaboration

with the institution's Media Lab. I also acted as spokesperson and was responsible for promoting educational programs and drawing public and political attention to critical environmental issues. Some of my specific tasks included pitching Harbor Branch stories to national networks, NPR, and major magazines and newspapers, and in many cases arranging logistics for such groups to spend time in the field with Harbor Branch scientists, including aboard the institution's research vessels and submersibles during expeditions.

- 2002**                    **Adjunct Professor, Florida Institute of Technology, Melbourne.**  
I taught a combined graduate and undergraduate science journalism course.
- 1999**                    **Intern, *New Scientist Magazine*, San Francisco office.**
- 1999**                    **Intern, *Popular Science*, New York.**
- 1995 - 1998**           **Laboratory Specialist Advanced, College of William & Mary, Virginia Institute of Marine Science, Gloucester Point.** As the manager of a research program focused on deep-ocean chemistry, I handled logistics for, and spent several months at sea on, expeditions in the Southern, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans. I also conducted research on water quality and toxic plankton blooms in the Chesapeake Ba regiony.
- 1993 - 1995**           **Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Oceanography, Florida State University, Tallahassee.** My research focused on the effects of global change on wetlands. This allowed me to experience, among other wonders, the joy of a heated greenhouse during a Florida summer. As a member of the FSU Science Diving Team, I took part in research projects in the Gulf of Mexico, which was substantially cooler.

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## EDUCATION

- 1998 - 1999**           **Certificate in Science Writing** from the Univ. of Calif., Santa Cruz, graduate Science Communications program. Awarded two merit fellowships.
- 1993 - 1995**           **Master of Science in Chemical Oceanography** at Florida State University under Dr. Jeffrey Chanton. GPA: 3.9.
- 1989 - 1993**           **Bachelor of Science in Biology** at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC. Graduated cum laude.



Brevard County Commission  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way (Building C)  
Viera, FL 32940

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to enthusiastically recommend Mark Schroepe for a position on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Mark's combination of deep affection for the Indian River Lagoon and his extensive background in science makes him an ideal candidate to contribute meaningfully to the board's mission of overseeing the ½-cent sales tax spending for environmental restoration and conservation efforts.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mark for over 20 years and can personally attest to his integrity, dedication, and deep commitment to environmental stewardship. Throughout this time, I have seen his unwavering passion for the Indian River Lagoon and his consistent efforts to support its health and sustainability.

Mark has dedicated much of his professional career to science writing, effectively translating complex scientific concepts into clear and compelling narratives for a wide range of audiences. His ability to communicate with precision and clarity ensures that he will be an asset in evaluating proposed projects and sharing critical insights with both board members and the public.

Mark's ability to approach issues analytically, coupled with his clear dedication to environmental stewardship, ensures he will provide thoughtful, balanced, and informed guidance. I am confident he will uphold the integrity of the committee's mission while contributing fresh perspectives and unwavering commitment to the health and sustainability of Brevard County's natural resources.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at [ewidder@teamorca.org](mailto:ewidder@teamorca.org) or 772 528 9729 should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Edith Widder  
CEO & Senior Scientist

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Gary	S	Aguinaga
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

gsaguinaga@gmail.com

Email Address

2124 N Indian River Drive	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Cocoa	FL	32922
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 307-5844	Mobile: (321) 626-0066
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

32 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I believe that the sales tax revenue available to drive improvement to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is truly an amazing gift and provides a tremendous opportunity for significant progress to be made toward continuous improvement in the health of the IRL. It is therefore critical that each dollar spent should be allocated to projects that, when executed effectively, will provide the greatest benefit possible. As a member of the SOIRL Oversight Committee, I feel I could work effectively with other committee members to utilize my experience in project evaluation, cost benefit analysis, development and construction of large infrastructure projects and more to help evaluate proposals and make recommendations that will drive pollution reduction and water quality improvement.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

Education: I earned a B.S. degree in Marine Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and completed the Tuck Executive Finance/Business Education course at Dartmouth College. I also hold a U.S. Coast Guard Chief Engineer's License and a Chief Facility Operator's certification from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Relevant Professional Experience: More than 30 years in the development, construction and operation of large-scale infrastructure projects that convert waste to energy. I've gained significant experience in project evaluation from both a technical and financial perspective. As Managing Director, and later as President and CEO, I had direct P&L (profit and loss) responsibility for multi-million dollar businesses and for ensuring that infrastructure projects were completed on time and on budget. Community Volunteer Experience: I have volunteered for more than 6 years with the Brevard Zoo and others on projects designed to drive improvement in the IRL, such as oyster gardening, oyster reef construction and periodic monitoring, clam bed monitoring, living shoreline site creation, and hosting a pilot seagrass planting/monitoring project.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I have served on teams and have been in leadership roles for more than 40 years, beginning with the roles of Regimental Commander and Honor Board Committee Chair at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Positions held during this time include Team Leader, Plant Manager, Vice President, Managing Director of International Operations and President/CEO. I have served on Boards and led Joint Venture partnerships in the development and operation of large infrastructure projects. These roles have provided significant experience in objective project evaluation, team and group consensus building, cost/benefit analysis, and have demanded that transparency and the utmost integrity be applied at all times.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

I believe that objective, non-biased, fact based analysis/judgement is perhaps the most critical requirement for committee members to exercise in carrying out the duties of this committee. Without this, the committee cannot serve its purpose responsibly, cannot earn the trust and respect of key stakeholders and cannot function effectively.



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Gary Aguinaga has worked for more than 40 years as an ocean going ship's engineer, and as an executive in the development, design, construction and operation of renewable energy projects. He has worked to reduce pollution created by converting waste material into clean energy throughout the U.S., and in Europe and Asia as well. Gary is a long-term resident of Brevard County and has lived on and enjoyed boating in Sykes Creek, the Banana River and the Indian River for many years. In "retirement," Gary has worked for a number of years with the Brevard Zoo and others on oyster gardening/reef construction, clam monitoring, seagrass, living shoreline and other restoration projects,

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[L\\_Koss\\_Reference\\_Letter\\_for\\_G\\_Aguinaga\\_2024.docx](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

I love being a resident of Brevard County and have been a resident, on and off, since the mid 1960's. As such, I care deeply about the quality of life that the County offers its residents and in preserving the economic well being of its residents and the business community. I believe that a healthy Indian River Lagoon is critical for Brevard County to maintain the above qualities and, therefore, my interests include volunteering with Restore our Shores/Brevard Zoo and others on oyster, clam, seagrass and shoreline restoration projects. I have enjoyed boating on the Indian River Lagoon for many years and enjoy a number of other outdoor activities.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I am a Marine Engineer by degree, and began my career as an oceangoing ship's engineer. I later worked for more than 30 years in the development, construction and operation of large merchant and municipal renewable energy power plants, both domestically and internationally. My career progressed with positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in positions such as Managing Director of International Operations for Waste Management, where over \$1.5 billion in infrastructure development was completed, and in President and CEO of a renewable energy company, with full P&L responsibility I am a member of the Marine Resources Council, Surfrider, Gulf of Maine Research Institute donor, and volunteer with Brevard Zoo/Restore our Shores.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

None requested.

[2024\\_Bio\\_Gary\\_Aguinaga.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### Please Agree with the Following Statement

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree





**Gary Aguinaga**

**2124 N Indian River Drive, Cocoa, FL. 32922**

**Tel: (321) 307-5844**

**E Mail: [gsaguinaga@gmail.com](mailto:gsaguinaga@gmail.com)**

### **Summary**

A results-oriented engineer and corporate executive with more than 40 years of experience in designing, developing and operating major infrastructure projects (valued over \$2.5 billion) that convert municipal and organic waste material into clean energy that mitigates the effects of environmental pollution and climate change.

A recently retired, long-term Brevard County resident who lives on and is passionate about the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), and who desires to be part of the team that implements solutions/activities designed to significantly reduce pollution sources into the Lagoon and to deliver restoration projects that will drive significant and continuous water quality and ecosystem improvement.

### **Career Experience**

- 1981 - 1986: Ship's Engineer, Exxon shipping company, culminating in Chief Engineer's License, USCG
- 1986 - 1987: Launch Complex Supervisor – Cape Canaveral Air Force Station
- 1987 - 1990: Staff Engineer, Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory – Westinghouse
- 1990 - 2016: Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. Key positions held include:
  - Vice President and Managing Director of International Operations, responsible for the company's day-to-day business activities in the UK, Europe and Asia, including project development, construction, operations, contract negotiations and customer relations.

- Senior Vice President, Maintenance and Reliability, responsible for maintaining Wheelabrator's \$2.5 billion asset base, consisting of 21 energy-from-waste and biomass power plants, and for 250 maintenance professionals. More than 30 years clean energy facility operating experience.
- Board Director for a number of joint venture companies for Wheelabrator/Waste Management in the U.S., Europe and Hong Kong
- 2016 - 2023: President/CEO for True North Renewable Energy, working to mitigate climate change by diverting organic waste from landfills and converting it to clean energy.

## **Education**

- Bachelor of Science degree in Marine/Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.
- Tuck Executive Business Education Program graduate - Dartmouth College.
- USCG Chief Engineer's license.
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers refuse-to-energy Chief Facility Operator's certification.

## **Community Interests/Activities**

- Volunteer – Indian River Lagoon restoration activities for the past six years – Brevard Zoo, Restore Our Shores (oyster gardening, oyster reef construction and monitoring, clam bed monitoring, pilot sea grass planting/monitoring residence host, living shoreline creation). These volunteer activities have provided me with the opportunity to learn a great deal about the water quality issues and mitigation requirements in the IRL from the science and academic experts who lead these programs.
- Member of the Marine Resources Council, Surfrider, Gulf of Maine Research Institute and Appalachian Mountain Club



65 Stone Street • Cocoa, FL 32922  
PHONE: (321) 433-8685  
FAX: (321) 433-8685

December 18, 2024

Brevard County Commissioners  
Brevard Government Center  
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way  
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Commissioners,

This is a letter of recommendation for Gary Aguinaga in hopes you will appoint him to serve on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I've known Mr. Aguinaga for more than a decade as a neighbor, but also as Cocoa's Volunteer Leader for the Indian River Lagoon.

As a long time resident on the banks of the Lagoon, Gary's passion has developed along with his thoughtfulness about the needs for its recovery. He has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with the Brevard Zoo, MRC and Surfrider doing oyster gardening, reef construction, monitoring and waterway cleanups. He has made our neighborhood a test bed for sea grass farming.

Gary's background serves him well for guiding the recovery of the Indian River Lagoon. He is a Marine/Mechanical engineer by degree and a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He's shared with me the years he spent developing, designing, constructing and operating renewable energy from waste facilities, both in the U.S. and internationally. Having constructed and managed more than a billion dollars in infrastructure projects, he's aware of obstacles and opportunities for large scale projects.

Gary will be a smart, level-headed asset on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Advisory Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Koss  
City of Cocoa Councilperson  
321-474-8445

*Stay Connected*

[www.CocoaFL.gov](http://www.CocoaFL.gov)



Serving our community with P.R.I.D.E!

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Charles	J	Andreski
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

candreski@att.net

Email Address

300 BRANDY CREEK CIR SE	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

PALM BAY	FL	32909
City	State	Postal Code

Home: (321) 727-1296	Mobile: (516) 567-4739
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

20 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ N/A

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I spend about 4 days a week fishing on the River and am much concerned with it's health.



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

Retired civil engineer with experience in highways, utilities and water supply. Past President of Forest Glen HOA.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I have spent 20 years with the NYSDOT supervising consultant designed highway projects in NYC. This has involved community involvement and coordination with the NYC DOT and other agencies. I have also done work locating underground utilities. I have also held Professional Engineer Licenses in four States.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

Since I have been retired for nearly 20 years I do not have any conflicts of interest.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

I graduated from the University of Tennessee with a BS in civil engineering in 1968. Entered the Army as an officer in the Corps of Engineers in 1969 and left as a Captain in 1972. I served in Germany as a Company Commander and in Vietnam as an advisor. Employed by The NYC Board of Water Supply as a Civil Engineer from 1972 to 1980, designing water distribution systems. . From 1980 to 2001 I worked as a Consultant Manger for the New York State Department of Transportation in NYC. From 2001 to 2005 I worked for The TBE Group as a Regional Manager for sub surface utility engineering. I have also held Professional Engineering Licenses in four States.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Document\\_3.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

no

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

no

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Since retiring and moving to Palm Bay I have spent about 4 days a week fishing in my 16 ft. boat out of Palm Bay Marina. I have observed the River in good times and bad.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

My background is in Civil Engineering with a BS from the University of Tennessee. I have experience in highway design, water supply and sub surface engineering. I have been a member of my community HOA as a member and as its President. I have held Professional Engineering Licenses in four States (lapsed).

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

[Document\\_3.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

Since I have been retired for nearly 20 years, I do not have a letter of reference on file.

**Boards Application Form**

---

**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Mr.

Prefix

Bruce

First Name

Middle  
Initial

Larson

Last Name

bruce.larson@me.com

Email Address

1507 Pine Street

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Melbourne Beach

City

FL

State

32951

Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 272-9885

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

50 years - 24 at current address

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

---

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Economics/Finance
- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- ☒ Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

Growing up in Brevard, I spent countless days exploring the Indian River Lagoon and at our seashore fishing, surfing, sailing, swimming and water skiing. My earliest civic engagement memory involved recording Osprey sightings and turtle nests with my mother to contribute to their conservation. While this may seem like a small endeavor now, the ecological balance of the IRL is at a critical juncture, and immediate action is necessary to prevent its deterioration. I am committed to participating in sustainable initiatives to ensure the long-term survival of our precious seashore and lagoon, not only for the benefit of wildlife and recreation alike.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

Over two decades, I had the privilege of working in the water and dam sector, which was both rewarding and enlightening. This experience gave me a unique perspective on the care we need to take in managing the services we take for granted every day, such as clean water, reliable wastewater systems, and power. The invisible aspect of these services is their interaction with the environment; these must be managed with great care to ensure the environment we want for future generations. Growing up in and around the Indian River Lagoon, I have witnessed firsthand the effects of development and industry on the lagoon. However, I have also seen remarkable comeback stories, like the Osprey repopulation. We can make a difference, but we must strike a careful balance between development and the future of the lagoon. I am excited about the opportunity to help maintain this balance.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

The Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee must shoulder the responsibility of harmonizing ecology with development. They must initiate and support projects aimed at restoring the lagoon to the way it was when I first saw it 50 years ago. The Committee must demonstrate courage in opposing actions that could further degrade the lagoon and devise effective and agile strategies to enhance the lagoon's ecosystem. To accomplish these objectives, the Committee will require substantial resources and collaboration with stakeholders and take expert advice to maximize the value from the available resources.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

The SOIRL Committee Members play a crucial role in safeguarding one of our County's most precious natural resources—the Indian River Lagoon. Protecting and restoring the lagoon necessitates a long-term commitment to implementing diverse and innovative projects to counteract the substantial impacts already inflicted on this ecosystem. Success in this endeavor demands leaders with the fortitude to make decisive choices, stamina, and the ability to prioritize the lagoon's well-being above personal interests or unchecked development pressures. Achieving these objectives hinge on maintaining absolute transparency and eliminating any potential conflicts of interest.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

I have over three decades of leadership experience spanning both corporate and government sectors. I have served on the Boards of Non-Profit organizations and committees advising the Government. As a proud U.S. Navy veteran and accomplished commercial executive, I have actively participated in initiatives that significantly influenced national critical infrastructure policy in the Water Sector. Additionally, I contributed to the formation of essential components of the Department of Homeland Security following the 9/11 attacks. I have consistently demonstrated a track record of driving mission-critical solutions, leading transformative strategies, expanding organizations into new markets, and achieving measurable results through ethical leadership, operational excellence, and a forward-focused strategic vision.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Letter of recommendation\\_Bruce\\_Larson.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Growing up in Brevard, I spent countless hours exploring the Indian River Lagoon, and our one-of-a-kind costal areas as a fisherman, surfer, sailor, and water skier. My earliest memory of environmental engagement was my mother instructing me to record the dates and locations of any sightings of Ospreys so we could report them. While that specific challenge may be smaller today, the ecological balance of the IRL is currently at a tipping point. I am committed to actively participating in initiatives that promote sustainable solutions, ensuring the long-term viability of the lagoon and sea shore for both wildlife and recreational activities.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

During my early professional career, I had the privilege of serving as a U.S. Navy SEAL, where I had the opportunity to explore oceans, rivers, and lakes across the globe. With over 1,000 dives and countless hours of boating, I developed a deep passion for living and working in and around water. This passion has led me to continue my career as a waterman. After my military service, I transitioned into the private sector technology industry before joining the world's largest private water and wastewater company. During my tenure there, I was responsible for safeguarding the critical infrastructure in water and sewage treatment facilities across 38 countries, serving tens of millions of customers. I quickly realized that these professionals are among the most dedicated individuals in ensuring the quality of their effluent. Subsequently, I returned to the technology sector in the Middle East, where my career once again aligned with my passion for water resource and asset management. I actively participated in project management teams for both the Mosul Dam revitalization effort in Iraq and the Kajaki Dam development. Project in Afghanistan To secure funding from the World Bank, the World Health Organization (WHO), US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), numerous natural resource preservation measures had to be implemented. I found personal fulfillment in striking a balance between development and environmental protection. My experience in managing substantial budgets and overseeing large workforces, coupled with my lifelong experiences in the water, have led me to my current passion: the future of our Lagoon and coastal areas in Brevard County, which I have called home for over five decades. Now in retirement, I am eager to contribute directly to the preservation and protection of these environments for marine life and recreation.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

I am a disabled Veteran with 100% Permanent and Total disability. I do not need physical accommodation.

[Bruce\\_Larson\\_resume\\_Sept\\_2024.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

---

## Agreement

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**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

Mr. Bruce Larson





## SUMMARY

Seasoned executive with over 30 years of leadership experience across both corporate and government sectors, recognized for spearheading strategic transformations and consistently driving superior performance. Proven track record in expanding organizations into new markets, with a precise focus on long-term strategic vision, maximizing stakeholder value, and achieving operational excellence. Respected for ethical leadership and delivering measurable results in fast-paced, high-stakes environments.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Regional Sales Director, Middle East and Central Asia**

L3Harris Technologies

Dec 2009 – Feb 2023

Led business development, sales and customer satisfaction efforts for strategic clients across the Middle East and Central Asia. Managed a distributed team of more than 200 staff in the U.S. and Middle East, delivering C4ISR programs supporting national security and critical infrastructure protection.

- Responsible for sales of \$1.45B in product and services over 8 years in 6 countries
- Delivered multiple design, build, operate, and transition programs deploying tactical and Enterprise C4ISR solutions fulfilling critical wartime mission requirements and protecting National Critical Infrastructure assets
- Founding President of the American Chamber of Commerce Chapter in Iraq
- Founding Chairman of the Overseas Advisory Council (OSAC) chapter for Baghdad, Iraq. A public-private partnership with between the business community and the State Department
- L3Harris Communications Systems Salesperson of the year in 2013, 2015 and 2018

### **Vice President, Security Programs**

American Water, Voorhees, NJ

Feb 2002 - July 2009

Developed and led global security programs during a critical period of transformation, overseeing physical and information security, business continuity, and crisis management.

- **Global Responsibilities** – Greenfield start for corporate and federated risk management programs protecting the company's employees, customers, mission-critical systems, and reputation serving over 45 million customers in 26 countries

- **Operational Risk Management** – Responsible for designing and implementing vulnerability assessment and business continuity programs to enhance the reliability of service to our customers and the emergency response capability of the organization
- **Regulatory Compliance** - corporate lead for compliance with Homeland Security and financial regulations including SOX, GLBA, HIPPA, FCA, DHS, and EPA regulatory compliance programs

**Assistant Vice President, Division Manager**

Science Applications International Corporation, McLean, VA

2000 - 2002

Founded a new business Division delivering mission critical solutions to U.S. Government and corporate clients. Immediately after 9/11, the Division directly supported multiple surge initiatives as the Nation quickly pivoted to Homeland Security priorities.

- Won \$20M of new business supporting the U.S. Federal Air Marshals Service
- Program Manager for software development efforts in advanced autonomous software agent technologies for the Defense Advanced Research Programs Agency (DARPA)
- Team Leader for Computer Network Defense and Incident Response Teams supporting intelligence community clients providing complete design-build-operate solutions and a 24/7 secure network operations center

**United States Navy**

Active-Duty Military

1986 - 2000

- Decorated Special Operations veteran who served as a Navy SEAL during multiple combat and humanitarian actions
- Specialized in unconventional warfare techniques including tactical communications, advanced demolitions, special reconnaissance, intelligence operations, scout sniper operations, and swimmer weapons systems
- Assistant training lead for the Navy SEAL scout sniper program and graduate of the Army Special Operations Target Interdiction Course

**SECURITY CLEARANCES**

Inactive SECRET (2013 BI)

Inactive TOP SECRET/ISSA Full-Scope Polygraph (2007 SSBI)

Inactive DOE Q (2007 SSBI)

## SELECT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS AND INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENTS

- Founding President, American Chamber of Commerce Chapter, Baghdad, Iraq
- Senior adviser to the National Infrastructure Advisory Council (NIAC) reporting to the Secretary of Homeland Security
- Appointed to DHS Cross-sector Cyber Security Working Group (CSCSWG)
- Founding Chairman, Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), Baghdad Chapter
- Board Member, SafeAmerica Foundation
- Board Member, Water for People Organization
- Founding member of the [Water Sector Coordination Council](#) advising EPA and DHS
- Founding Chairman of the [Overseas Security Advisory Council](#) (OSAC) Baghdad, Iraq. OSAC is a public-private partnership between the Private Sector and the U.S. State Department
- Chairman for the Risk Assessment Methodology for Critical Asset Protection (RAMCAP) advisory committee advising DHS
- Appointed to the Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency (HSARPA) stakeholder advisory committee for developing sector-wide risk reduction initiatives
- Honored with an [InfoWorld 100 award](#) in 2005 for American Water's deployment of a Network Behavioral Analysis System (Network Anomaly Detection). This platform saved American Water more than one million dollars in event avoidance during the first year it was deployed.
- Chief Security Officer Magazine featured American Water and Mr. Larson on the cover of the March 2006 edition and devoting the cover story "[Value Made Visible](#)"
- Technical contributor to the [National Security Telecommunications Advisory Committee](#) working group on Intrusion Detection Systems and emerging Internet threats

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author of the National Research Council report titled - [Improving the Nation's Water Security: Opportunities for Research](#) (ISBN:0-309-10566-8).
- Principal study group investigator and co-author of the NIAC report – "[Sector Partnership Model Implementation](#)" (Oct 2005)
- Study group member and co-author of the NIAC report – "[Prioritizing Cyber Vulnerabilities](#)" (Oct 2004). This effort focused on macro-economic analysis of cyber-threats to critical infrastructures
- Study group member and staff reviewer for the NIAC report - [Common Vulnerabilities Scoring System \(CVSS\)](#) (Oct 2004). This NIAC proposed an open and universal vulnerability scoring system to rank information system vulnerabilities
- Principal study group investigator and co-author of the NIAC report – "[Best Practices for Government to Enhance the Security of National Critical Infrastructures](#)" (April 2004)
- Co-author of the Naval Warfare Publication 3-07.2 - Antiterrorism and Force Protection (2001); and the Naval Tactics, Techniques and Procedures 3-07.2A - Maritime Interdiction Operations (2002). These documents served as the pillars of the changing missions for the U.S. Navy and Coast Guard post 9/11.



**263 Loggerhead Drive**

Melbourne Beach, Florida, 32951

erika@erikaorriss.com

(407) 460-6198

11/15/2024

**To Whom It May Concern,**

I am writing this letter to wholeheartedly recommend Mr. Bruce Larson of Melbourne Beach for a position on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. His extensive experience, unwavering dedication, and deep-rooted passion for Brevard County and its natural treasures make him an outstanding candidate for this role.

Mr. Larson is uniquely qualified to contribute to the committee's mission. He brings a wealth of expertise in water management and is a decorated veteran of the U.S. Navy SEALs, known for his discipline, fortitude, and leadership. As a Melbourne Beach resident of fifty years, Bruce has a comprehensive understanding of the challenges our county faces, particularly those impacting the Indian River Lagoon, and recognizes the urgency of addressing these issues effectively and promptly.

Bruce's commitment to the community is evident through his active participation in local council meetings, where he is a familiar and engaged presence. His readiness to volunteer when unexpected vacancies arise exemplifies his willingness to serve and his dedication to improving our community.

Mr. Larson's professional accomplishments are equally remarkable. His contributions span both commercial and government sectors, including efforts that helped shape national critical infrastructure policy in the Water Sector and supported the formation of elements within the Department of Homeland Security post-9/11.

Beyond his impressive resume, Bruce is personable, collaborative, and solution oriented. He is a natural team player who is not afraid to ask critical questions or take the lead in developing and implementing effective strategies.

For all these reasons, I confidently and enthusiastically recommend Bruce Larson for the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I have no doubt that his expertise, dedication, and passion will significantly benefit the committee and our community.

Sincerely,

//signed//

Erika Orriss

---

## Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

### Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Ms  
Prefix

Sandra  
First Name

I  
Middle  
Initial

Sullivan  
Last Name

s2sully@gmail.com  
Email Address

165 Dorset Lane  
Home Address

Suite or Apt

South Patrick Shores  
City

FL  
State

32937  
Postal Code

Home: (954) 224-8624  
Primary Phone

Business: (321) 408-1094  
Alternate Phone

### How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

2011

### To which Commissioner are you applying?

☒ N/A

### Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

☒ Yes ☐ No

---

## Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

### In which Commission District do you live? \*

☒ District 4

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

### I prefer to receive correspondence by: \*

☒ Email

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

### Occupation (Firm & Duties)

---

Real Estate Sales Associate (Florida Homes Realty and Mortgage) - Represent buyers and sellers in real estate transactions.

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

### List Education Degrees and/or Licenses:

---

Batchelor of Business Administration (2 credits short); Real Estate Sales Associate

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

**Meetings are held on Thursdays from 4 - 6 pm about every 6 weeks at the Brevard County Government Center at Viera. Can you attend?**

---

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Affordable Housing Advisory Council

**By Florida Statutes, the Affordable Housing Council must be made up of persons representing different interests and professions. Please mark all of the position(s) that you believe you could represent on the council and are interested in serving. \***

---

☒ One Brevard County resident who is actively engaged as a real estate professional in connection with affordable housing.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.



Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy
- ☒ Technology
- ☒ Real Estate

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

As an advocate of the Lagoon, I have attended many COC meetings. I research and read scientific literature and all the FIT reports; and am familiar with the reporting on Oculus as well as the performance under Ordinance 2016-15 that COC should be reviewing actual performance and costs and adjusting projects based on actual performance. Grand Canal is an example of a project that is taking years longer and much higher cost than when it was approved. My finance background will be an asset to the board. We have lost 96% of seagrass and as the foundation species of life in the lagoon, and without fixing that, we cannot save the lagoon.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

My background is in technology as a systems/business analyst - where my professional experience included problem solving analysis, instruction, fiscal, and large project management experience. My strengths are in analyzing data and extracting key information from reports - as well as connecting data from different sources. As part of my volunteer work for the lagoon, I serve on the PSFB RAB board and created a social media group to build awareness on lagoon issues. I have also served on other boards such as SAC. I also volunteered with UF to take PFAS samples in the lagoon and coastal beaches in Brevard as part of their study. The IRL has pollution issues which are not being addressed by the current lagoon plan.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

My character is that of a tenacious researcher, bringing courage and integrity as well as being a professional business woman. SOIRL was tasked as an oversight committee to assure the public that these tax dollars were being spent wisely. My commitment therefore is to the public commitment. I have the technical skills to evaluate a large amount of research materials - I'll read 500-1000 page reports in stride - and will continue my own looking at other research studies to that when it comes to analytical, the best decision making is being made. As far as group consensus, everyone won't always agree, but the conversation is rich when different viewpoints collaborate to reach a better place than any one of us alone. Collaboration on discussion is more than the sum of the parts.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

It is definitely a concern that there have been instances where there have been conflicts of interest on the SOIRL board. I have no conflicts of interest as have no affiliation with any entity receiving any dollars. There are members of COC which have conflicts of interest and this diminishes the trust in the COC.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Sandra Sullivan is a trusted #WeThePeople advocate whose local work has built a reputation of integrity and courage. She is an avid water person spending nearly 2 decades on the water with her 65 foot sailboat. Sandra ran her own software business for her career, with a background in accounting and collaborative software, and more recently in real estate. Her company's open source application development framework was an industry leader and won many awards, and had over 35,000 developers in online community which she moderated. She retired to be a fulltime mother of 2 sons and a daughter enjoying cooking. In the past 8 years, Sandra has gotten involved with with deterioration of the lagoon - and spoke regularly about the lagoon at commission and SOIRL meetings - as well as advocating to our state leaders.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

- ☒ Email
- ☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Gmail -](#)

[Sandra Sullivan Reference Letter for Appointment to Save Our Lagoon Board.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

PAFB RAB

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

My interests including reading scientific literature, research, community engagement and accountability and transparency. • Family focused • Mother of 3 • Married 22+ years • Special Education • Contamination Remediation • Near Shore Reef • Indian River Lagoon • Sea Turtles • Water Shed and Wetlands • Flood Plain • Sailing • Education • Culinary • Permaculture • Natural Health • Home Improvements • Travel • Sailing •

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

My education experience is 4 years towards Bachelor of Business Administration. My work experiences in technology, scientific research, fiscal accounting and notably project management are skill sets which can be application and which will make me a strong asset for contributing to the parks Board. I have served on (Broward and Brevard) School Advisory Councils, Brevard Gifted Advisory Council, SAC School Board, and Patrick Space Force Base Restoration Advisory Board such that I know the Roberts Rules of Order and professional responsibilities of serving. My regular attendance at BOCC and other boards for experience. In addition to my knowledge on subjects, I am also reliable on attendance which will help assure quorum.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

N/A.

[Sandra\\_Sullivan\\_Resume\\_2025.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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**Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree





**SANDRA SULLIVAN**

REALTOR & BUSINESS ANALYST

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## PROFILE

- Realtor
- Successful businesses.
- Research skills, distilling long documents into key points.
- Working experience Management Plans and Environmental Reports
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, research, project management and community building skills.
- Tech savvy, scientific study or reference document
- Social Media Content Engagement
- Candidate Brevard County Commission 2022.

# RESUME

## REAL ESTATE SALES ASSOCIATE

2025 – FLORIDA HOMES REALTY AND MORTGAGE

## BUSINESS ANALYST AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ADVOCATE, WAVESACTION LLC

2018-2024 – COMMUNITY SERVICE

Intergovernmental coordination, research & advocacy on fiscal, safety and environmental issues at County, State and Federal level; with social media engagement on following issues:

- Acquiring Federal USACE FUDS determination for South Patrick Shores former NAS WWII military dump & performed Vapor Intrusion testing.
- #NoTollRoads for CFX tolls on SR528 initiative with intergovernmental State coordination.
- Patrick Space Force Base (PSFB) Restoration Advisory Board Member (since 2019) pertaining to contamination (PFAS, OCP, TCE, PAH)
- FCT Hightower Conservation State agreements.
- Critical evacuation deficiency
- Save Our Lagoon Plan lacking pollution (i.e. PFAS, Herbicides) & non-compliance tax use F.S. 212.055.
- Merritt Island Incorporation Issues & Space Florida.
- State SB102 Live Local Tax Exemptions & Home Rule Issues under State Constitution
- Transportation advocacy as \$800+ M capacity deficit
- Midreach Reef permit violations for Federally protected hard bottom reef fisheries and sea turtle habitat
- Transparency and Accountability

2007-2018 Educational advocate for Gifted and Disability (ESE) educational needs including Education Plans (EP/IEPs), including position on School Advisory Boards (also secretary), Brevard Gifted Advisory Board and social media groups. Parent of profoundly gifted son, highly gifted daughter and 2E son. Homeschool Mom.

## MANAGING DIRECTOR, JCORPORATE LLC

1998-2005

As co-founder, leveraged Open Source for value-added Commercial Software business. Award winning, market leader open-source Espresso Java Application Development Framework and value-added commercial applications:

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## CONTACT

[sandra@sandrasullivan.com](mailto:sandra@sandrasullivan.com)

[s2sully@gmail.com](mailto:s2sully@gmail.com)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/sandrasullivan4/>

(321) 408-1094

(954) 224-8624

165 Dorset Lane

South Patrick Shores, FL, 32937

## ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS

• Family focused • Mother of 3 •  
Married 22+ years • Special  
Education • Contamination  
Remediation • Near Shore Reef •  
Indian River Lagoon • Sea Turtles  
• Water Shed and Wetlands •  
Flood Plain • Sailing • Education •  
Culinary • Permaculture • Natural  
Health • Home Improvements •  
Travel • Sailing • Former Single-  
Engine Pilot • Glider • Former  
Canadian Reserve Officer •  
Attained Top Rank Air Cadet •  
Leadership Courses •

## KEY SKILLS AND CHARACTERISTICS

• Integrity • Strong Work Ethic •  
Research Skills • Communication  
Skills • Intergovernmental  
Coordination • Speaker •  
Leadership • Team Player •  
Adaptable • Problem Solver •  
Project Management • MS Office  
and other software proficient

- Business Operations, Purchasing and Receivables
- Lead software designer content management & award winning collaborative commercial applications.
- Innovative business process reengineering
- Award winning market leader software design using Agile development and componentization.
- Large project management implementations
- Built strategic partnerships.
- Technical and Marketing Writer: website development, documentation, instructional, presentations, reports, press releases, white papers and periodical articles.
- Collaborative community development (34,000 members).
- Large customer base including several Fortune 100; Governmental agencies, organizations, and corporations.
- Versed in copyright licenses, contracts, and non-disclosure (NDA) agreements.
- Public Speaker at software conferences.

## MANAGING DIRECTOR, REGIS INC

1985-1998

Managing Director and co-founder accounting software business. Principal designer developed niche market accounting solutions for Investment and Reinsurance markets. Development of resellers to broaden marketing to large scale non-profits and governmental organizations:

- Business Operations, Purchasing and Receivables
- Designer & QA including accounting software series and investment management software and other vertical business systems including schema design.
- Responsible for project management (large scale implementations), training and customer service relations.
- Business Reseller Development, Contract negotiations, business development, and strategic planning.
- Professional writer: marketing literature, documentation, periodical articles, press releases; newsletters & reports
- SQL database queries and SQL reporting software
- Performed business and software consulting

## EDUCATION

### BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH DOUBLE MAJOR IN COMP SCI (2 COURSES SHORT OF GRAD)

Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova scotia

High School: Annapolis West Education Center, Annapolis Royal  
Graduate



Sandra Sullivan <s2sully@gmail.com>

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## Sandra Sullivan Reference Letter for Appointment to Save Our Lagoon Board

1 message

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sarah hodge <hodge\_sarah@yahoo.com>  
To: Sandra Sullivan <s2sully@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 23, 2024 at 8:30 PM

Dear Members of the Save Our Lagoon Board,

We would like to submit this Reference Letter to Support Sandra Sullivan for appointment to the Save Our Lagoon Board.

She Cares deeply about the Environment and Our Rivers!

So many people have seen her fight for Clean Water and to clean up the toxic chemicals from our Rivers, drinking water and soil when the government officials fought against cleaning them up. She would be an Amazing person to represent the People and one that really cares for their safety!

Sandra is very knowledgeable in researching Public Records, Honest, Hard Working, Intelligent, Dedicated to Cleaning Up Our Rivers and has the Support of Many People in Brevard County.

We are So Thankful for Everything the Save Our Lagoon Board has done and will do for the Lagoon!!!

Thank You for consideration of this matter!

William and Sarah Hodge  
390 Sanders Lane  
Merritt Island, FL. 32953  
Phone: 321-480-4037  
Email. [billhodge@juno.com](mailto:billhodge@juno.com)  
[hodge\\_sarah@yahoo.com](mailto:hodge_sarah@yahoo.com)

## SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON CITIZEN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners is soliciting applications for four seats on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Volunteers are sought to represent four fields of expertise: Education/Outreach, Real Estate, Tourism and Technology.

### Basic Requirements and Duties of Oversight Committee Members

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in one or more of the following fields: real estate or tourism. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$486 million from sales tax revenue to **Reduce** pollution sources to the lagoon, **Remove** legacy pollution from the lagoon, **Restore** natural systems within the lagoon, and **Respond** to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

Applications with resumes and letters of recommendation or endorsement should be submitted no later than **December 27, 2018**. The Space Coast League of Cities will review applications for Real Estate and Tourism expertise on **January 14, 2019**. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners will review applications for Technology and Education/Outreach expertise and finalize all four appointments at their regular meeting on **January 22, 2019**.

As part of the application process the Board of County Commissioners requires each applicant to answer in writing each of the following questions:

<b>Name</b>	Laurilee Thompson
<b>Mailing Address</b>	PO Box 307
<b>City, State, Zip Code</b>	Mims, FL 32754
<b>Phone</b>	321-794-6866
<b>Email</b>	laurileethompson

Please complete the following questions and statements.

1. Do you reside in Brevard County Yes ☒ No ☐ Number of Years
2. Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings? Yes ☒ No ☐



3. Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise:

☐ Science ☐ Economics/Finance ☐ Education/Outreach ☐ Lagoon Advocacy  
☐ Technology ☐ Real Estate ☒ Tourism ☒ LAGOON COMMERCE 12/2024

**FOR THE QUESTIONS BELOW, RESPONSES MAY BE UP TO ½ PAGE EACH  
AND ON A SEPARATE SHEET IF NEEDED**

4. Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee

I have enjoyed being on the IRL for my entire life. My earliest memories of playing outside were along the shores of the IRL. My grandfather operated a recreational fishing pier and my dad ran a nearby boat dealership. My family lived in an apartment above the boat dealership. Our entire world revolved around the lagoon. My earliest work experiences involved fishing on the lagoon. The restaurant that I co-own and operate today is totally dependent on healthy sea grass beds in the IRL because our reputation was built on serving local wild caught shrimp. The white shrimp, brown shrimp, and hoppers that our shrimp boats catch out in the ocean grow up in the sea grass beds of the IRL.

When I was a youngster in the 1950s-1960s, the lagoon was clear and the fishing was incredible. Fish kills were rare and mostly related to cold weather incidents. Hundreds of families made a living from its bountiful waters. For the past forty years I have personally witnessed the sad decline of the IRL to where only a handful of people even try to make a living fishing its waters today. Commercial fishing is almost a thing of the past and many of our recreational fishing guides are now working out of state. The demise of the IRL is a threat to our multi-billion-dollar tourism and real estate industries. Its condition could be a detriment to our ability to attract new employees to our County's growing technology sector, not to mention to the quality of life of our Brevard County residents.

Brevard County is leading the way in estuary restoration and can be a model for how to address the state-wide threat of declining water quality. For twenty years I have done everything I can do to educate people about the need to fix the problems affecting the IRL. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program Plan is the first time that a concentrated county-wide effort is being made to correct the issues that are plaguing the IRL. I want to be a part of that solution.

5. Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the SOIRLPP and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

I commercially fished the IRL from the mid-1960s to the mid-1970s. I went to college for three years at Florida Institute of Technology's School of Marine and Environmental Technology, earning an AA in Oceanographic Technology. Following college, I ran a commercial longline fishing boat in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic. I left the sea in 1987 and have worked at my family's seafood restaurant in Titusville since then.

I started the first guided kayak eco-tourism business in Brevard County in 1997, Osprey Outfitters. That same year, I started the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. Envisioned to be a local project mainly to educate the business community about the economic benefit of conservation lands in Brevard County, it is now one of the top events of its type in the country, attracting attendees, exhibitors, speakers and field trip leaders from all over the world each January. The Brevard Nature Alliance was created in 1999 to be a non-profit umbrella for the birding festival. As a founding member of the BNA, I have soundly supported its mission to build public awareness and appreciation of the value of Brevard County's natural resources.

I have served on the Brevard County Tourist Development Council for nineteen years. I was appointed to be a voice for eco-tourism on the board, a role in which I continue to participate. I am Chair of the TDC's Beach Improvement Committee, which recently approved eight IRL restoration grants. I am on the Board of Directors for the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association and its Space Coast Chapter. I did a presentation on Florida's Harmful Algal Blooms to the FRLA Board last June and have been encouraging the Florida tourism industry to take a leadership role in addressing Florida's declining water quality issues. I am a participating member of the IRL Council's Management Board, the Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel for the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council, the Southeastern Fisheries Association, the Board of Directors for the Merritt Island Wildlife Association, the IRL Spoil Island Working Group, and the Brevard Indian River Coalition. I am a Trustee for Hubbs Sea World Research Institute. I served for six years on the Brevard County Planning and Zoning Board and participated in the following land use planning initiatives: Brevard Tomorrow, Titusville 2020, Titusville Tomorrow and myregion.org. I am a former board member for Space Coast Audubon and was on the Sea Grant Marine Advisory Committee.

6. Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

I am a passionate, honest, hard-working, dedicated person that gives 100% when tasked with projects. Over the years I have participated in numerous consensus-building exercises in tourism, land use planning and the environment. I personally conducted public meetings throughout the county to solicit input for Brevard County's Hidden Gems tourism marketing campaign. The sites selected were the personal favorites of Brevard County residents. I oversee the program development and operation of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival each year with forty local volunteers and more than one hundred speaker and field trip leader volunteers from all over the world. In 2012, I helped to organize and sponsor a forum with The Conservation Fund that was attended by 200 community leaders. It was called "Awakening the Possibilities: Balancing Nature and Commerce on Florida's Space Coast." The result of that forum was an increase in eco-tourism marketing by the county's office of tourism. I am the Chair of the Tourist Development Council's Beach Improvement Committee from where I encouraged the TDC to use some of the Beach Improvement Funds for IRL restoration projects.

For more than fifteen years I have been doing presentations on what the IRL was like when I was growing up in the 1950s, 60s, and 70s. I now have images to go with the talk and am willing to go anywhere to talk to anyone about the IRL's past and why we need to fix the lagoon. I have a newly added presentation with images about a sea grass project, of which I was the major financier and driving force behind. I also have a presentation on harmful algal blooms that was directed at Florida's tourism leadership that I can do. I went to Washington DC to address Congressional staff members of the bi-partisan House Estuary Caucus on Florida's harmful algal blooms. I have hosted numerous meetings with many different agencies concerning the IRL at my restaurant. I am one of North Brevard County's largest employers, with approximately 140 workers at my restaurant where we proudly support the Brevard Zoo's "Shuck and Share" oyster restoration project. I believe that education is critically important for we cannot reasonably expect our citizens to support something of which they know little about.

7. Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.

The SOIRL Trust Funds comprise the largest pot of money of which regular citizens of Brevard County have the power to direct the spending of. It's crucial that members avoid real or even perceived conflicts of interest for if those exist, the people who voted for the SOIRLPP will not trust the decisions made by the committee. That could jeopardize the success of any future referendums where voters are asked to approve additional taxation to fund projects or programs, such as the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program or funding for infrastructure improvements for schools in Brevard County.

### Additional Requirements

In addition to completing the application posted at <http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon>, a resume and at least one letter of recommendation are required. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization.

**Send your application, resumé, and letter(s) of reference to:**

Natural Resources Management Department, Carol Gerundo, Administrative Assistant to the Director

[Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov](mailto:Carol.Gerundo@brevardfl.gov)

Phone: 321-633-2016

## Laurilee Thompson

Age: 65

Years in Brevard County: 65

Education: AA Oceanographic Technology, Florida Institute of Technology

Employer: Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant

Position: Owner/Manager

### Current Appointments:

Brevard County Tourist Development Council: 2000 - Present; Chair 2003, 2010, 2015

Indian River Lagoon Council Management Board: 2016 – ongoing

Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands Program Selection and Management Committee: 2014 - ongoing

### Current Affiliations:

Member: Deepwater Shrimp Advisory Panel for South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council

Board Member: Brevard Nature Alliance; Founding Member

Board Member: Merritt Island Wildlife Association; Current Vice-president

Board Member: Space Coast Chapter Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association; President 2013

Board Member: Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association

### Awards and Recognitions:

- Laurilee was selected as the **1998 Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year** in recognition for her work in the business of eco-tourism.
- First recipient of the annual **Allen David Broussard Conservation Award**, in recognition of efforts to demonstrate the economic value of conservation through the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival. The award was presented at the **1999 National Watchable Wildlife Conference** in Ft. Myers.
- The **Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce 1999 Home-based Business of the Year Award** went to Laurilee's guided kayak tour business, Osprey Outfitters.
- The **Titusville Area Chamber of Commerce 1999 Small Business of the Year Award** went to the family business, Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant.
- Recipient of the **Titusville Area Visitors Council 1999 Hospitality Award**.
- Recipient of the **2001 Florida Outdoor Writers Association, Florida Sportsman Biff Lampton Memorial Conservation Award** for Outstanding Conservation Efforts on behalf of the Florida Outdoors.
- Recipient of the **2002 DAR Citizen of the Year Award**, presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Indian River Chapter in recognition for educational efforts concerning Florida Scrub Jays.
- First Recipient of the annual **Brevard County Conservation Leadership Award**, presented by the Board of Directors of the Brevard Nature Alliance (March, 2003).
- Recipient of the **2003 Harry R. Lee Memorial Award**, presented by the City of Titusville in recognition of outstanding community service for founding the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival.
- Recipient of the **2003 Bob Owens Memorial Award**, presented by the St. Johns River Water Management District for outstanding citizen service to the St. Johns River WMD.
- Recipient of the **2005 National Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation Medal** in recognition for outstanding achievement for environmental awareness.
- Recipient of the **2006 East Central Florida Junior Achievement Business Leadership Award** in recognition of the Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival and tourism work.
- Recipient of the prestigious **2006 Audubon Florida Guy Bradley Award** recognizing demonstration of a personal, public and consuming commitment to natural resource protection in Florida.
- Recipient of the **2006 Space Coast March of Dimes Woman of Achievement Award** for community service.
- The **Brevard County School Board 2006 Small Business Partner of the Year** award went to Dixie Crossroads.
- The National Restaurant Association's **2007 Florida Restaurant Neighbor Humanitarian of the Year Award** went to Laurilee for her community service.

- **2008 Canaveral Boy Scout Golden Eagle Dinner Honoree** in recognition for environmental leadership.
- **2010 Space Coast Chapter American Red Cross Honoree** in recognition for environmental leadership.
- **Southeastern Fisheries Association 2010 Paul Herring American Freedom Award** for standing up on behalf of fishermen and fishing communities.
- **Miami Corporation 2012 Friend of Conservation Award** in recognition of extraordinary efforts to protect and conserve habitat corridors in Brevard County.
- **Marine Resources Council 2013 Stan Blum Award** for lifetime service to the Indian River Lagoon.
- First Recipient of the **Brevard Nature Alliance Legacy Award (2013)** in recognition of outstanding leadership advocacy for protection of Brevard County's natural resources.
- **Southeastern Fisheries Association 2013 David Harrington Semper Fi Award** for tirelessly working to provide honest information on fisheries issues to the State and Federal Government.
- 2015 recipient of the **Charlie Corbell Conservation Award** at the annual event that awards Space Coast individuals for their exemplary contributions to conservation.
- 2015 recipient of the **Patriot Award** from the Honor America Board at the Liberty Bell Museum in Melbourne.
- In November, 2016 the family businesses, Dixie Crossroads Seafood Restaurant and Wild Ocean Seafood Market, were each recipients of a **Change Award** to honor Everyday Superheroes of North Brevard County. The category was "Superpower of Corporate Citizenship."
- Southeastern Fisheries Association **2017 SFA Member of the Year Award** for meritorious leadership in restoring grasses in the Indian River Lagoon and liaison with the Hospitality Industry to save the culture of the Seafood Industry.
- Dixie Crossroad is a member of the Indian River National Estuary Program **Indian River Lagoon Innovators and Investors Network** for 2017 and 2018.

Laurilee's diverse background includes an Associate Degree in Oceanographic Technology from Florida Institute of Technology, design and production of nautical themed furniture, custom boat fabrication, commercial fishing boat captain, and restaurateur. Living and working on and near the sea instilled a lifelong passion for the preservation of these natural areas and the diverse species that are dependent upon their perpetuity.

After leaving the ocean in 1987, first-hand experience in stressed Gulf of Mexico fisheries led Laurilee to take part in preservation efforts closer to home. When overfishing threatened the habitat and future supply of rock shrimp, she encouraged her entire family to step in and lead the efforts to end trawling in the fragile Oculina Reef and put a management plan in place for the rock shrimp fishery. The result was a first for the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council when they approved a fisheries management plan for the shrimping industry that was based upon input from the industry itself. Laurilee continues to make yearly trips to Washington DC to educate members of Congress about the U.S. commercial fishing industry.

While transitioning from a seafaring lifestyle, Laurilee developed an intense desire to connect people with nature. This led to a seat on the Brevard County Tourist Development Council and many eco-tourism endeavors. The most notable is the **Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival**, which Laurilee founded in 1997.

This annual event, Florida's first major birding festival and now one of the top birding festivals in the nation, is heralded as a model for festivals nationwide due to the exceptional lineup of seminar presenters and high-quality field trips. Birders of all levels, wildlife enthusiasts, biologists, ornithologists and international birding and adventure tour operators travel from all over the world to support this benchmark tradition. Laurilee has attended a

wide variety of forums and addressed many organizations to raise awareness of the benefits that nature-based and heritage tourism can bring to a community.

1997 was also the year that Laurilee started the first guided kayak eco-tour operation in Brevard County, Osprey Outfitters. It has since been through three owners and a name change. A Day Away Kayak Outfitters is now one of the most successful guided kayak tour businesses in the state, introducing thousands of people each year to the wonders of the Indian River Lagoon.

During early development of the Great Florida Birding Trail, Laurilee was instrumental in securing for Brevard County 21% of the site nominations out of the 18-county East Florida Section by personally filling out 45 lengthy nomination forms and escorting Julie Wraithmell, Birding Trail Coordinator, for site inspections. This resulted in the placement of 32 Brevard County sites on the Great Florida Birding Trail Map. Five additional Brevard County sites were added when the East Section of the Great Florida Birding Trail was updated in 2008. Brevard County has more Great Florida Birding Trail sites than any other county in Florida.

Laurilee has been an outspoken advocate for the establishment of a network of multi-use bike trails in Florida. The business core of downtown Titusville is experiencing revitalization due to the presence of three major multi-use trails that will soon pass through the city. Laurilee was recognized as a “Trail Champion” at the 2016 annual meeting of the Florida Trails Foundation.

Lately her emphasis during public speaking has shifted from talks about the benefits of nature-based and heritage tourism to talks about what it was like growing up on the Indian River Lagoon and the critical importance of bringing it back to its former beauty and productivity. A rabid proponent for restoration of her beloved Indian River Lagoon, Laurilee gives talks to anyone that will listen.

Because of the vital importance of sea grasses to Indian River Lagoon restoration, Laurilee was the major funder and driving force behind a successful pilot project to introduce nursery-grown sea grass into the Banana River Lagoon near the Merritt Island Airport. It is her hope that this technology will be used to hasten sea grass coverage when water quality improves sufficiently for sea grasses to survive in the Lagoon. She has developed a presentation about the sea grass project too.

Through her business, as well as her personal life, Laurilee is an important advocate for the promotion, protection, and use of our natural resources in a responsible manner. She says, “The Indian River is the heart and soul of our community. Our economy and our quality of life depend on her survival.”



December 21, 2018

To: Space Coast League of Cities

Re: Appointment of Laurilee Thompson to  
Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Advisory Committee

Space Coast League of Cities,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Laurilee Thompson for the above committee. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Laurilee for the past decade on tourism related issues, including fostering support for the lagoon, as well as examining ways to strengthen the health of our lagoon.

Laurilee's active participation in environmental issues pre-dates the years I have known her. She has a long and well known history of passionate perseverance in the defense of our county's, and our state's, environmental resources.

I can think of no one more qualified, or dedicated, to participate in the plan to preserve, protect, and enhance the well being of our lagoon than Laurilee Thompson.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your decision.

Sincerely,



Tom Williamson  
General Manager  
Ocean Partners Associates  
President- Cocoa Beach Area Hotel and Lodging Association





## *Merritt Island Wildlife Association*

P.O. Box 2683, Titusville, FL 32781

Phone: 321-861-2377

Fed ID# 59-3289841

Website: [www.merrittislandwildlife.org](http://www.merrittislandwildlife.org)

*A 501 (C)(3) Cooperating Association for the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge*

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**To:** Space Coast League of Cities

**Date:** Dec 25, 2018

**From:** Merritt Island Wildlife Association (Non-Profit 501c3)

**Subject:** Endorsement of Laurilee Thompson to serve on the Tourism seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Citizen Advisory Committee.

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association is submitting our endorsement for Laurilee Thompson to serve on the tourism seat on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (IRL) Project Plan Citizen Advisory Committee.

Ms. Thompson exemplifies the purpose of the Merritt Island Wildlife Association by promoting conservation, awareness, and appreciation of the Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge and providing assistance to Refuge programs. Her years of experience as a life long Brevard County citizen, commercial and recreational fisherman and restaurant owner demonstrates her understanding of the impacts of the refuge on tourism and the quality of life for the citizens of counties that live on the Indian River Lagoon.

The Merritt Island Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge (MINWR) contains 22% of the IRL shoreline (129 miles) and understands the impact of refuge activities that support tourism in Brevard, Orange and Volusia Counties. The economic impact data from the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife Associated Recreation report totaled \$60.4M. (Based on Per-person per-day expenditure for the Refuge in Brevard, Orange, and Volusia Counties)

The Merritt Island Wildlife Association endorsement is based on Laurilee's professionalism, experience in tourism, environment, conservation and years of support to the Merritt Island Wildlife National Wildlife Refuge.

We will be glad to provide any additional information to support Ms. Thompson's selection on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan Citizen Advisory Committee.

Best regards

Chris Fairey  
President, Merritt Island Wildlife Association



**Boards Application Form****Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Steve	Middle Initial	Justice	Last Name
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steve.justice@rentokil.com

Email Address

3593 Par Lane Titusville FL 32780

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Titusville

City

FL

State

32780

Postal Code

Home: (321) 287-8929

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

5 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Economics/Finance
- ☒ Lagoon Commerce

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I grew up during my childhood enjoying the pristine waters and having moved back to Brevard County a few years ago, it has been sad to see it in such decline. I possess over 30 years of experience in leadership roles with global leaders within the distribution and service segments (industrial distribution/pest management). I have strong analytical, business development, team building and overall leadership/collaborative skills in developing win/win solutions.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

Education BS in Management, MBA University of Miami Certifications and credentials Graduate- Scott Work Strategic Negotiating Skills, and Advanced Negotiating Skills Graduate of Miller Heiman Advanced Selling Skills AIB Certified Quality Control Sanitarian HAACP Compliance and Certification- University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Six Sigma Certified Total Quality Management Certificate- The Deming Institute CcGMP and GMP Certification (Food Processing and Pharma)- Institute of Food Technologists Certified Food Safety Professional - Food Safety (CP-FS)- NEHA Advisory Board Member- Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Committees in Healthcare- HCA Hospitals Aware Winner- Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (Steritech), United States Environmental Protection Agency (5 time award winner) Licensed in Arthropods of Public Health Concern category Experience Over 30 years of leadership experience with global leaders in industry and service segments. District Branch Operations Manager- Grainger Regional VP Operations, Regional VP Business Development, VP National Accounts- The Steritech Group Sr Strategic and National Accounts Manager- Rentokil North America Skilled in team building, leadership, business analytics, business development. Responsible for growth and client retention in North American healthcare sector for a \$7.7B corporation, with a direct annual portfolio of \$63m in acute care healthcare clients.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I am passionate about restoring and preserving our lagoon for generations to come. Having worked with government and other entities at the highest level to reduce the risks associated with pesticide exposure, I bring a wide base of knowledge. I also possess exceptional communication skills, and am blessed with being both analytical and creative, and build collaborations to affect positive outcomes. I am exceptional for creating a clear vision of success and developing detailed plans to support that vision.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

Integrity and building trust are paramount. Persons serving on this committee must be beyond reproach and fiscally responsible in being a good steward of their responsibilities or any funding decisions.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Steve Justice is a resident of Florida since age 1, and spent his high school years in Brevard County. He returned to Brevard in 2019, hoping to enjoy the lagoon that he remembers from his youth. He and his wife Michelle Alban currently reside in Titusville. Currently, Steve serves as Senior Strategic and National Accounts Manager for Rentokil North America, which is the world's largest pest management company with revenues of over \$7B annually. Prior to that Steve served in various roles with Grainger, a large industrial supplier as well as The Steritech Group. Within those organizations, Steve held progressive positions in operations management as well as Regional Vice President and Vice President of National Accounts. He holds BS and MBA degrees from the University of Miami.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following in order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Letter from Katie Delaney.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No.

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

Interests include travel, ecotourism, the outdoors, and preserving the environment. I have travelled extensively and admires and applauds those communities that have worked to preserve and protect their natural resources. I am active in local political events, and support those candidates that wish to improve and protect our lagoon. I also serve as President of LaCita/Fairways Edge HOA, and am a board member of Keep LaCita Green.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

Steve serves as Senior Strategic and National Accounts Manager for Rentokil North America, which is the world's largest pest management company with revenues of over \$7B annually. Prior to that Steve served in various roles with Grainger, a large industrial supplier as well as The Steritech Group. Within those organizations, Steve held progressive positions in operations management as well as Regional Vice President and Vice President of National Accounts. He holds BS and MBA degrees from the University of Miami.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

No.

Upload a Resume

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## **Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### **Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

---

☒ I Agree



# Steve Justice

## PROFILE

Dynamic, results oriented professional with demonstrated success in leading sales teams while exceeding targets. Highly effective at quickly establishing confidence and credibility, balanced with the skills required to develop loyalty and long-term relationships across an organization, from C suite decision makers to economic buyers.

Unique ability to successfully develop and penetrate diverse market verticals, growing existing market share, spearheading regional and national account initiatives, and managing many of the world's most high-profile clients.

Adept at building internal cross-functional teams and developing the support structure to secure mutually established goals.

Recognized as an industry expert within several verticals, including Group Purchasing Organizations, healthcare, pharmaceutical manufacturing, food processing, and food distribution. Possesses a thorough understanding of governmental regulatory agency requirements (USDA, FDA, FSMA), third party audit compliance (GFSI, AIB, BRC, SQF, Silliker), and Joint Commission Standards (JCAHO) for healthcare. Expert at designing programs in compliance with reduced risk initiatives, environmental stewardship, LEED certification.

## CONTACT

PHONE:  
321-287-8929  
EMAIL:  
Steve.justice@rentokil.com

## HOBBIES

Performing live music  
Travel and Ecotourism  
Culinary Adventures

## EDUCATION

University of Miami  
BS, MBA

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Rentokil North America** **Senior Strategic and National Accounts Manager**

2017- present

Rentokil is a \$7.7B global provider of commercial pest management and additional ancillary services. Responsible for the management and growth of a \$60M healthcare and GPO portfolio for this publicly traded company.

### **The Steritech Group** **Vice President, National Accounts** **Regional Vice President Operations** **Regional Vice President, Business Development**

1996-2017

Steritech was a leading provider of specialized brand protection services to the food processing, logistics, hospitality, healthcare and retail industries. I was a key executive in this \$145M company until it was acquired by Rentokil in 2017.

### **Grainger**

District Branch Operations Manager

1987-1995

District Operations Manager for all Florida branch locations with responsibility for \$153M in revenue.

## SKILLS, CERTIFICATIONS, ACHIEVEMENTS

- Graduate- Scott Work Strategic Negotiating Skills, and Advanced Negotiating Skills
- Miller Heiman Advanced Selling Skills
- AIB Certified Quality Control Sanitarian
- HAACP Training- University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences
- Six Sigma Certified
- Total Quality Management Certificate- The Deming Institute
- cGMP and GMP Certification (Food Processing and Pharma)- Institute of Food Technologists
- Certified Professional and Food Safety Manager (CP-FS)- NEHA
- Board Member- HCA Healthcare Environmental Sustainability Committee
- PESP Award Winner (5 times with Steritech)- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- License- Arthropods of Public Health Concern
- (19) time Presidents Club Award winner for Steritech and Rentokil







BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

December 20, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am pleased to offer my recommendation for Mr. Steve Justice to join the SOIRL board. As a proud Cocoa native, Mr. Justice has deep roots in the community. He brings a wealth of experience in business, outstanding leadership abilities, and a proven track record of collaboration.

Mr. Justice's passion for humanitarian work and commitment to environmental sustainability further underscore his qualifications. His dedication to these causes, combined with his unique perspective and innovative approach, makes him an exceptional candidate for the board. I am confident that his contributions will greatly benefit SOIRL's mission and initiatives.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Katie Delaney  
District 1 County Commissioner

**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Ms

Prefix

Carol

First Name

F

Middle  
Initial

Spellman

Last Name

cfspellman@me.com

Email Address

2780 n riverside dr

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Indialantic

City

FL

State

32903

Postal Code

Mobile: (309) 573-3442

Primary Phone

Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

3+

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

None Selected

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

- ☒ Economics/Finance
- ☒ Real Estate

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I'd like to share experience and help support the effort.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

Financial reporting for a fortune 50 company, Licensed CPA in Florida. Real estate investment experience.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

Financial reporting (+30 years). Communication of financial.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

Clear communication and supporting people's understanding of the initiative.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Bettering the Indian river is important to me and I take the project seriously. My background is 30+ year in Finance and reporting for a fortune 50 company and also in public accounting. I am a CPA in Florida and have a good business background with experience as well as an MBA. If I can assist and share your experience and my own, I'd enjoying making a contribution where I can.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the followingIn order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Recommendation\\_letter\\_save\\_our\\_river.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

No

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

In addition to the above, I live off of the river. I see it and the wildlife that needs protection.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

Cpa - Florida and illinois. MBA

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

[12\\_04\\_2024\\_Spellman\\_Resume\\_Final\\_copy.docx](#)

Upload a Resume

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## Agreement

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**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree

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**FINANCIAL CONTROLLER | ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR**

A professional Financial Expert (retired) with a specialization and strength in cost control. Holds in-depth experience in budgeting, reporting, and perfectly developing a successful team to support financial operations. Successfully adept at improving budgeting for a Fortune 50 company. Ability to monitor and manage capital budgets of \$500M and more. Skilled in all aspects of financial reporting, forecasting, investment analyzing, and yearly budget setting. Keen at cultivating key business relationships, commercial experience, and logistics background. Maintains international and public accounting experience, as well as federal, state, and sales and use tax experience. Recognized for mentality of "clients first and people always."

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**EXPERTISE**

Financial Reporting & Budgeting | Team Building & Leadership | Management Accounting  
Supply Chain Management | Manufacturing Engineering | Six Sigma Black Belt | Financial Analysis  
Strategic Planning | Process Improvement | Continuous Improvement | Tax Management

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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE****CATERPILLAR INC. | 1988 – 2016****BUSINESS RESOURCE MANAGER**

Directly managed a team of 6 professional accountants and jointly responsible with operations team for a budget of \$300M. Supported GAAP accounting, SEC reporting, and Sarbanes Oxley requirements. Worked closely with operation's director and facility operation's managers to provide monthly results reviews. Performed duties such as annual budget setting, quarterly budget refreshing, investment analysis, and \$500M capital expenditure management.

- Provided financial results support and budgeting support to the advanced components segment of Caterpillar exceeded results expectations for 5 consecutive years.
- Exceeded Caterpillar's business plan by leading the Advance components segments.
- Supported operations by working in a matrix structure within 11 Caterpillar facilities and managed 6 professional accountants.
- Surpassed cost reduction targets (\$50M/Sales and \$300M/Transfers) over 4 years within Advanced Components Division of Caterpillar Inc.
- Helped execute and develop cost reduction strategies by working with leadership team.
- Implemented and developed monthly reporting processes by redefining and establishing operations reporting packages due to a reorganization effort.
- Project Manager for the business case and solution development of an inbound logistics center in China, which covered financial, tax, logistics, and system requirements.
- Worked at largest Caterpillar Belgium SA facility and gained public accounting experience in West Africa and South Africa.
- Gained logistics and commercial managerial experience, which included providing commercial negotiations and customer support for \$100M startup logistics services in the auto industry.
- Acquired and maintains 3 years of Federal and State tax, and sales and use tax experience.

*Additional work knowledge in Public Accounting and International Experience.*

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**EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Bachelor of Accounting**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Master of Business (MBA)**, Executive MBA, London Business School

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**PROFESSIONAL FINANCIAL CERTIFICATIONS**

**Certified Public Accountant (CPA)**

**Certified Management Accountant (CMA)**



From: Yvonne Schopke yvonne4545@gmail.com  
Subject: Recommendation letter  
Date: Dec 13, 2024 at 4:12:45 PM  
To: cfspellman@me.com

December 13, 2024

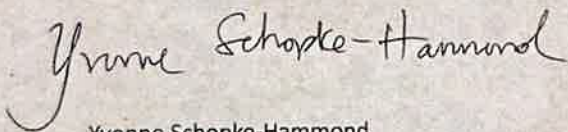
Re: Recommendation for Carol Spellman

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to recommend Carol Spellman for the SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON Advisory Board. Carol is my neighbor on Riverside Drive in Indialantic. She is an advocate for the improvement of our lagoon and a much respected member of our community. I wholeheartedly believe Carol would be an asset to the SAVE OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON initiative.

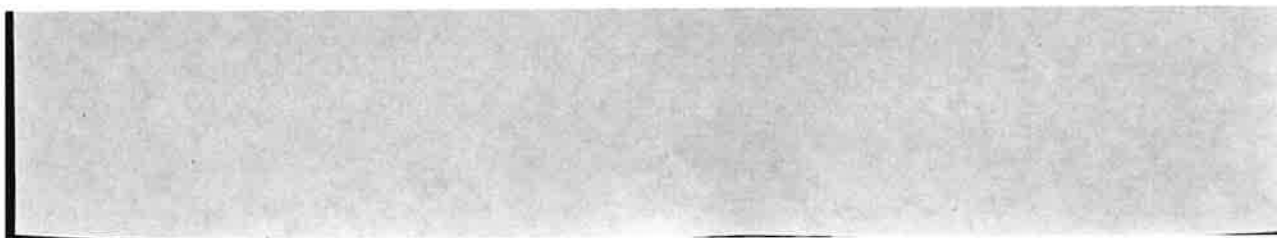
If you have any questions, please contact me at (321) 508-2442 or via email at [yvonne4545@gmail.com](mailto:yvonne4545@gmail.com). Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvonne Schopke-Hammond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Yvonne Schopke-Hammond





**Boards Application Form**

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**Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

	Stel		Bailey
Prefix	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

stelbailey@gmail.com

Email Address

6395 W Baker Circle	
Home Address	Suite or Apt
Cocoa	FL
City	State
	32927
	Postal Code

Home: (321) 289-0280	
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

30+ years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ District 1

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

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**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

I grew up in Brevard County, Florida, and my strong passion and knowledge of the Indian River Lagoon and its ecosystem and wildlife drive my interest. I am committed to helping restore trust by delivering accurate information and comprehensive insights to the community. I am confident that my expertise in environmental matters can help elevate SOIRL to new levels of success.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

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I am an internationally recognized advocate for environmental justice, having played a crucial role in establishing the first national drinking water standards and securing a hazardous substance designation for PFAS chemicals. My professional endeavors include serving as a community liaison for the National Academies of Sciences and the Environmental Protection Agency, ATSDR as well as collaborating closely with the President's Council on Environmental Quality in Washington, D.C., to address NEPA policy and engage federal agencies in the remediation of contamination affecting the Indian River Lagoon and its fisheries. My experience also encompasses partnerships with professors in Environmental Engineering Science to conduct water sampling in the Indian Lagoon, analyzing a variety of chemicals. I have also volunteered with multiple organizations and initiatives, such as participating in the dissection of fish for ORCA's one health study and playing a key role in community outreach efforts related to clean-up activities and citizen science projects. My academic qualifications include certificates, involvement in programs like the Florida Master Naturalist classes, attendance at numerous workshops aimed at deepening my understanding of subjects such as fish dissection pathology, hands-on experience in scientific testing techniques, and college education.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

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My analytical skills are well above average, and I have served as a facilitator for the national PFAS coalition, where I successfully led teams in crowdsourcing initiatives. I utilized a significant global social media presence to enhance our efforts. Furthermore, I am committed to working collaboratively with others in the decision-making process to meet our goals.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

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Our community has decided to impose a tax on itself, demonstrating trust in our government to act in the best interest of the Indian River Lagoon. It is the ethical responsibility of public administrators to safeguard the public interest. Decisions must prioritize the community's welfare over personal interests, political affiliations, or private entities. It is essential to prioritize the common good and the well-being of all community members.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

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Stel Bailey is a highly regarded and influential leader within the community, known worldwide for her dedication over the past ten years to studying the effects of toxic chemicals on wildlife, water quality, and human health in the Indian River Lagoon. She has collaborated extensively with various national and international organizations, academic institutions, and experts. Beyond her environmental advocacy, Bailey is also a researcher, writer, and photojournalist, embodying an adventurous spirit as a mother and educator.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following**In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \*

☒ Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Stel\\_Bailey\\_LOS.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

No

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

My background includes proven skills in strategy and marketing, community engagement, effective communication, project oversight, research, scientific expertise, data gathering and entry, and problem-solving skills. I am keenly interested in wildlife monitoring, outdoor activities, community outreach, journalism, and photography.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

I am an internationally recognized advocate, a member of the Restoration Advisory Board, the IRL Roundtable, the National PFAS Contamination Coalition, and a Robert F. Kennedy Make American Healthy Again team nominee. In addition, I act as a community liaison for federal agencies focused on environmental health. My background includes working with organizations such as the Environmental Working Group, Earthjustice, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and various educational institutions on research and outreach projects. I have collaborated with the renowned advocate Erin Brockovich and have been featured in an award-winning documentary in Japan. My work in environmental health has yielded important discoveries, such as identifying the Satellite Beach cancer cluster and the South Patrick Formerly Used Defense Site, addressing PFAS contamination across Florida, and investigating an unusual mortality event affecting manatees in 2021. With over ten years of experience in environmental research, I also possess expertise in financial auditing, journalism, and website development. This diverse skill set will greatly benefit the SOIRL board and the broader Brevard County community.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

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## Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

### Please Agree with the Following Statement

**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

☒ I Agree



**Stel Bailey**

6395 W Baker Circle, Cocoa, FL 32927

321-289-0280 | stelbailey@gmail.com

**Objective**

To contribute my environmental expertise, community outreach experience, and leadership skills to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee, supporting initiatives to preserve and enhance Brevard County's natural resources.

**Professional Summary**

- Accomplished environmental health advocate and communicator with national recognition.
- Extensive experience in project management, community outreach, and event coordination.
- Skilled in water quality field sampling, GIS data analysis, and environmental research.
- Proficient in digital marketing, branding, and science communication.
- Proven leader in citizen science mentoring and environmental monitoring.

**Professional Experience***Executive Director*

*Fight for Zero, 501(c)(3) | 2018 – Present*

- Lead strategic planning, operations, and programs to achieve organizational goals.
- Collaborate with diverse stakeholders, including government agencies, industry regulators, and community groups.
- Conduct water and soil sampling for environmental analysis, including contaminants and algal toxins.
- Mentor volunteers in environmental research and invasive species identification.
- Develop science communications, event coordination, and public outreach initiatives.

*Co-Facilitator*

*National PFAS Contamination Coalition | 2019 – Present*

- Organize and direct nationwide coalition activities addressing PFAS contamination.
- Draft policy letters to governmental bodies and manage member communications.
- Coordinate monthly agendas, foster engagement, and drive impactful discussions.

*Board Member*

*Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) | 2024 – Present*

- Act as a liaison between the community and the organization, ensuring community concerns and interests are voiced.
- Analyze and provide feedback on technical documents, environmental studies, and proposed restoration plans to ensure alignment with community goals and environmental regulations.



- Contribute to discussion on environmental remediation efforts, prioritizing safety, compliance, and long-term sustainability

#### *Board Member*

#### *IRL Roundtable | 2024 – Present*

- Work with scientists, environmental organizations, and government agencies to develop and implement strategies to address environmental impacts of the expanding space industry on the Indian River Lagoon.
- Provide feedback on environmental assessments related to space industry activities, advocating for responsible environmental practices within the space industry to protect the health and biodiversity of the Indian River Lagoon.

#### **Education**

- Motivated professional with a background in the nonprofit sector and a strong interest in environmental policy. Currently preparing for a Bachelor of Political Science.
- Mentorships with a comprehensive portfolio focused on investigative reporting, digital journalism, photojournalism, writing, and broadcasting.
- High School Diploma (2004) (available upon request)
- Wildlife Monitoring, Florida Master Naturalist Program (UF/IFAS)
- Completed Webinar on Advancing Collection and Analysis of PFAS in Blood (Eurofins)
- Completed ArcGIS Training Course (udemy)
- Completed Geosyntec PFAS Webinar Series (Geosyntec Consultants)
- Exploring Pathology Fish Dissection Training (ORCA)
- Fraud Prevention and Detection Certificate (WAMU), Certified Auditor Course (CHNA)

#### **Awards and Achievements**

- Introduction of enforceable drinking water regulations for six PFAS substances.(2024)
- Designation of PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances under CERCLA (2024)
- Successfully coordinated a significant national PFAS conference in Ann Arbor, Michigan, attracting 350 participants and featuring 50 expert speakers from across the country, advancing scientific research in the field. (2024)
- Advanced PFAS Reporting in the Toxic Release Inventory under the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) and the Pollution Prevention Act (PPA). (2024)
- Awarded one million dollar three-year PFAS Exposure Study grant with UF (2020-2024)
- Awarded twenty-five hundred PFAS in Public Water Fountain Test Project Grant (2021).
- Committee Liaison for Guidance on PFAS testing and health outcomes with NAS (2021)
- Extensive media coverage from prominent outlets including The New York Times, NPR, USA Today, The Washington Post, PBS, Inside EPA, ABC News, and The Guardian. (2019-2024)

#### **References**

Available upon request.



Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering  
Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment  
Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences

208 A. P. Black Hall  
PO Box 116450  
Gainesville, FL 32611-6450  
352-846-3913  
352-392-3076 Fax  
Katherine.deliz@essie.ufl.edu

November 28, 2022

Dear Brevard County Government,

I write with enthusiasm to recommend Stel Bailey as a member of the Brevard County Save Our Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I am Research Assistant Professor at the University of Florida, where I combine community engagement with environmental assessment and analytical chemistry to conduct externally funded research in fate and transport of emerging pollutants and pathogens, risk of pollutant and pathogen exposure after natural disasters, and development of sustainable and cost-effective remediation approaches. I came to know Stel in 2019, due to mutual interest in assessing fate of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the environment. We are currently collaborating on an EPA Science to Achieve Results (STAR) project aimed to increase vulnerable coastal communities' resilience to PFAS exposure. Through this collaboration Stel – through Fight For Zero – has assisted in community outreach and engagement, recruitment and training of citizen scientists for collection of environmental samples, coordination and advertisement of community meetings and in person and virtual conferences.

Stel is a dependable partner that has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and initiative which have been critical for the implementation of our project. In addition, Stel and I have monthly meetings to discuss progress and coordinate future citizen science and outreach activities. Stel always comes prepared for our meetings, consistently exhibits curiosity and motivation to learn, and enriches discussion with her research of relevant topics. She is hard working and has a true passion for environmental and community health surrounding the Indian River Lagoon and adjacent systems. In the last year Stel went well beyond the project requirements, and put in extra hours to dissect fish, collect soil samples, and gather survey information for community input on Indian River Lagoon fishing and fish consumption. Furthermore, she supported initiatives to increase awareness on impacts of water discharge, pollution, climate change, and erosion in the Indian River Lagoon ecosystem and its critical species.

As an active, knowledgeable, and respected member of the Brevard County Community, Stel will be a valuable addition to Brevard County Save Our Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I have no doubt in my mind she will overcome any challenge she is presented with and excel in everything she puts her mind to. Stel Bailey has my strongest recommendation

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Y. Deliz Quinones'.

Katherine Y. Deliz Quinones, PhD  
Department of Environmental Engineering Sciences | University of Florida

**Boards Application Form****Profile**

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

**Which Boards would you like to apply for?**

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix	Deborah	A	Harmon
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

debharmon2009@gmail.com

Email Address

37 Marina Isles Blvd	
Home Address	Suite or Apt

Indian Harbour Beach	FL	32937
City	State	Postal Code

Mobile: (407) 808-4707	Home: (321) 241-4347
Primary Phone	Alternate Phone

**How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?**

10 years

**To which Commissioner are you applying?**

☒ District 4

**Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

**Interests & Experiences**

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Applicants must commit to serving the public interest by providing stewardship of Lagoon Trust Funds, especially in relation to restoring health to the Indian River Lagoon, and must demonstrate expertise and experience in a field listed in the drop down menu below. Knowledge of water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members and their alternates oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners on spending an estimated \$542 million from sales tax revenue to Reduce pollution sources to the lagoon, Remove legacy pollution from the lagoon, Restore natural systems within the lagoon, and Respond to new information by recommending annual amendments to the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP).

Duties include participation in meetings to evaluate progress towards plan implementation and lagoon health, review technology and alternative project proposals for reducing pollutants and improving water quality, assess the cost-effectiveness of projects and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee addresses questions, concerns, and ideas from the public to improve the SOIRLPP. Applicants must be willing to ensure that the SOIRLPP reflects the most effective, timely and responsible means to restore the Indian River Lagoon and that the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Fund is managed in the best interest of the public.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. The letter of recommendation can be a personal recommendation from a professional in the same field and/or an endorsement by a reputable nonprofit organization. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend monthly weekday meetings?**

☒ Yes ☐ No

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: \***

☒ Lagoon Education/Outreach/Advocacy

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please list one or more reasons why you are personally interested in applying to serve as a member of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Oversight Committee.**

Eight years of SOIRL planning and implementation have yielded demonstrable water quality improvements, and as a resident whose home is located adjacent to the Banana River, I have a vested interest in ensuring that this progress continues in a way that makes best use of the tax dollars being invested by our community. Further, the credibility of the spending and outcomes from these investments will be critical to sustaining the long-term funding of continued progress, making these next two years especially critical to the program, in my opinion. The water quality challenges will extend beyond the first 10 years of the SOIRL tax, and I want to help ensure that strong community support continues until the health of the lagoon is fully restored.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a brief overview of your background and experience (education, professional experience, and community volunteer experience) as it relates to your understanding of the Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.**

For three decades ending in 2017, I worked in progressively more responsible business development, marketing, management and consulting positions in the environmental and water industry, roles which taught me how to assess the needs of clients and assist the technical team with translating those to achieve workable solutions for environmental protection and restoration. During that time, I found the science of environmental restoration so compelling that I went back to college and earned a degree in environmental studies (1997). While I remained primarily on a business track within the field, I worked with clients and multi-disciplined teams all over the country, and eventually became directly involved in consulting projects related to planning and infrastructure that are applicable to this program. In September 2017, I took a job locally in a related field (architecture/engineering) to spend less time traveling for business and had opportunities to engage in the community. These include the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (Board Chair in 2023, elected board member through 2025), Keep Brevard Beautiful (Board Chair 2024-2025), and the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (communications and educational outreach volunteer). Please see my resume and reference letters for more details. I have also helped place oyster mats in the Banana River adjacent to my home in Marina Isles. An early lagoon restoration project, this installation failed to work as intended due to conditions specific to the locale. Water quality and science issues are complex; solutions are seldom instant and not always straightforward, and it's important to learn and adjust from what works and what doesn't.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe what character, judgement, analytical, communication, and group consensus building strengths you would contribute to the purposes and duties of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.**

I am a strategic thinker, skilled communicator and servant leader with a unique combination of personal experiences and accomplishments that could benefit the Citizen Oversight Committee. I have worked collaboratively with many different professionals, scientists, engineers, volunteers and stakeholders, and I believe that respect and integrity are paramount to successful working relationships and outcomes in any setting. I'm an effective listener, the foundation of all good communication. While I have a general working knowledge of the SOIRL plan and current project strategy, I have not been involved in the details to date, but you can be assured that I do my homework and strive to evaluate all pros and cons for a proposal or situation before forming an opinion. I have been a strong advocate for the lagoon in my volunteer activities and will continue to be one, while simultaneously bringing a collaborative leadership style and objective thinking to related topics and committee endeavors.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please describe the importance of committee members putting public interests first and avoiding real or perceived conflicts of interest in making recommendations for expenditure of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Trust Funds.**

The Citizen Oversight Committee represents and advises the Brevard County Commission as a voice of the community and taxpayers. Transparency in keeping with Florida's Sunshine Laws, prudent stewardship of funding and science-based decision-making are absolute imperatives to avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest. Further, opinions can vary in our community about the SOIRL program and among engineering and scientific professionals. That's why it's important to earn and sustain public confidence both by sticking with the SOIRL plan and openly discussing and deciding adjustments to the plan as projects are implemented and new data is received.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.**

Deborah (Deb) Harmon's professional services career spans decades, including 30 years in the environmental engineering and water industry. She is an advocate for the value of engineering, science and design which promote robust economic development, create sustainable communities, and protect the environment and infrastructure that sustain the success and vitality of people, companies and their endeavors. Deb graduated from Rollins College with a bachelor's degree in environmental studies (summa cum laude) and displays an active commitment to community and environmental causes as a volunteer and community leader. She and her husband, a retired architect, live on the Banana River in Indian Harbour Beach, where she enjoys boating, kayaking and watching wildlife.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

**Select one of the following In order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. \***

☒ Phone

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[Harmon Reference Letters.pdf](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

**Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.**

None.

**Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.**

None.

**Please explain your interests and experiences.**

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In a professional sense, I have transitioned from full-time employment to what some would call semi-retirement, while increasing my level of community involvement as a means of staying active and giving back. I have loved and enjoyed nature since I was a child, including outings on my uncle's boat around the spoil islands of the Indian River near Sebastian. When my husband and I moved from Orlando to Indian Harbour Beach in 2014, we chose to be near the waters we loved off Dragon Point where we kept our first sailboat years before, only to learn later that the pristine waters I knew as a child and the wildlife I valued were in peril. This has naturally motivated me to engage in protecting the lagoon as time has permitted, and the opportunity to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee would allow me to increase that commitment and contribute to an endeavor that is both a passion and an obligation to future generations of Brevard County residents.

**Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.**

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For three decades ending in 2017, I worked in progressively more responsible business development, marketing, management and consulting positions in the environmental and water industry, roles which taught me how to assess the needs of clients and assist the technical team with translating those to achieve workable solutions for environmental protection and restoration. During that time, I found the science of environmental restoration so compelling that I went back to college and earned a degree in environmental studies (1997). While I remained primarily on a business track within the field, I worked with clients and multi-disciplined teams all over the country, and eventually became directly involved in consulting projects related to planning and infrastructure that are applicable to this program. In September 2017, I took a job locally in a related field (architecture/engineering) to spend less time traveling for business and had opportunities to engage in the community. These include the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (Board Chair in 2023, elected board member through 2025), Keep Brevard Beautiful (Board Chair 2024-2025), and the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (communications and educational outreach volunteer). Please see my resume and reference letters for more details. I have also helped place oyster mats in the Banana River adjacent to my home in Marina Isles. An early lagoon restoration project, this installation failed to work as intended due to conditions specific to the locale. Water quality and science issues are complex; solutions are seldom instant and not always straightforward, and it's important to learn and adjust from what works and what doesn't. Through donations and contributions, I also support the Marine Resources Council, The Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund and the National Wildlife Federation.

**Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.**

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None required.

[Resume\\_Deborah\\_Harmon\\_2024\\_Final.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

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**Agreement**

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

**Please Agree with the Following Statement**

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**I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.**

---

☒ I Agree



# DEBORAH HARMON

37 Marina Isles Boulevard | Indian Harbour Beach, FL 32937  
debharmon2009@gmail.com | 407.808.4707

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## EXECUTIVE AND CONSULTANT

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Innovative, results-oriented and accomplished professional with extensive experience and demonstrated success in all phases of professional services consulting focused on the built environment, environmental services and water industries. **Inventive strategic planner** with **finely-honed organizational and implementation skills** and well-deserved reputation of hard work that shows results through exceptional productivity. **Collaborative consultant and trusted client service leader** with proven ability to design and deliver exceptional work products and brand experiences, resulting in customer loyalty. **Effective executive, communicator, facilitator, writer and messaging expert** for integrated proposals, presentations, work products and multi-media campaigns aimed at varied audiences. Skilled at **translating scientific and technical information** to non-technical audiences. Hands-on leader and multi-talented consensus-builder with a demonstrated **ability to build and lead cross-functional teams to heightened levels of achievement**. Engaged community leader and volunteer with strong desire to give back and sustain progress.

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT – Indian Harbour Beach, FL

JANUARY 2024 TO PRESENT

Formed Harmony Strategic Consulting, LLC, a women-owned business offering strategic planning, communications and management services to select clients. Provided pro bono presentation support services to the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition for a series of two workshops aimed at training Brevard residents and volunteers to better communicate about progress made on healing the IRL. Served as part of the three-member team of workshop facilitators.

### BRPH ARCHITECTS ENGINEERS, INC.

SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DECEMBER 2023

#### PRINCIPAL, CHIEF STRATEGIST, DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT – Melbourne, FL

Leadership team member at Brevard-based, employee-owned international firm serving clients in aerospace, manufacturing, education, hospitality, entertainment and commercial sectors from nine offices across the U.S. Directed a staff of 10 and worked directly with senior managers, sector leaders and technical professionals to develop and implement growth plans, client strategies, sales activities and organizational development initiatives. Retired from full-time work at the end of 2023 to pursue other interests, especially community and non-profit involvement.

### T&M ASSOCIATES ENGINEERS AND CONSULTANTS

JANUARY 2015 TO SEPTEMBER 2017

#### SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE STRATEGY – Middletown, NJ

Executive team member for \$70 million regional engineering, environmental and consulting firm serving commercial, industrial and municipal clients. Responsible for leading the implementation of growth strategies and organizational development initiatives across multiple business functions, geographies and client sectors.

### INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT – Indian Harbour Beach, FL

OCTOBER 2014 TO JANUARY 2015

Freelance consultant specializing in management, strategic planning, brand development and management, multi-channel sales and marketing campaigns, proposal/presentation strategy and development, and communications, including technical and persuasive writing.

**BROWN AND CALDWELL – Orlando, FL, and Walnut Creek, CA****1996 TO OCTOBER 2014**

*Nationally renowned science, consulting, construction and engineering firm, specializing in environmental and water management.*

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, MARKETING (2010-OCTOBER 2014)**

Provided vision and direction for brand management and strategic marketing for privately held \$350M company based in Walnut Creek, California. Member of Senior Management Team for restructuring of sales and marketing functions in post-recessionary period to successfully restart company growth. Directed a diverse creative team of 20 to implement over 350 separate projects annually for corporate public relations, image management and communications and responsible for \$2.5M annual budget. Continued to consult on strategic sales opportunities and paid assignments for utility agencies. Voluntarily left position in 2014 to relocate family and establish new career direction in Brevard County, FL.

**SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, INFRASTRUCTURE PRACTICE LEADER (2004-2010)**

Steered growth of national water/wastewater infrastructure engineering business. Promoted to Vice President and selected to lead the Infrastructure Practice, a first for a non-engineer, due to superior leadership skills and job performance. Ultimately advanced to Senior Vice President and led the team which grew revenues from \$7M to \$60M by the end of tenure, while producing an average of 20% growth year over year. Supervised business direction, annual business plan, business development, project delivery and quality oversight, as well as coordination with five geographic-based business units and technical consultants. Led consulting teams responsible for paid client assignments related to asset management and infrastructure refurbishment/replacement. Advanced from Vice President to Senior Vice President during this time. Promoted to Senior Vice President, Marketing due to superior job performance and exceptional marketing and communications skills.

**PRODUCT MANAGER & SENIOR CONSULTANT, BUSINESS CONSULTING AND INFRASTRUCTURE (2000-2004)**

Leadership contributor and senior marketing/business development official operating predominantly in the creation and establishment of the company's national Asset Management consulting services to water and wastewater utilities, which included both consulting and information technology offerings. Assessed market needs and client requirements and collaborated cross-functionally with technical consultants to develop service offerings, business development and marketing plans, messaging and approaches to resonate with clients and build business. Directly participated in developing, writing and leading winning presentations, qualifications statements, proposals, marketing materials, promotional strategies, pricing strategies and other positioning with clients and target segments. Led successful sales pursuit teams and secured multi-million contracts with public agencies throughout the country, managing the process, tracking government RFP requirements, and coordinating with diverse technical and support teams. Winner of Brown and Caldwell CEO ACE Award for Demonstrating Initiative and Teamwork.

**BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER, FLORIDA REGION AND CORPORATE (1996-2000)**

Advanced through progressively more responsible positions in the Florida Region, directing sales and marketing operations and proposal activities for five offices, and at the corporate level, providing leadership and overseeing corporate systems for proposals, training and marketing support nationally. Participated in developing and taught the company's proprietary sales approach in workshop settings.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE:** Prior to Brown and Caldwell, worked in progressively more responsible business development and marketing positions for various regional environmental, transportation, architectural and professional services firms in Florida, in sales and public relations in the housing industry, and as a freelance writer for newspapers and publishing firms.

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## **EDUCATION & COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

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BACHELOR OF ARTS – ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES – ROLLINS COLLEGE – WINTER PARK, FL (SUMMA CUM LAUDE)

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS – JOURNALISM – VALENCIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE –ORLANDO, FL

LEADERSHIP ORLANDO – GRADUATE

MELBOURNE REGIONAL CHAMBER – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CURRENT), 2023 BOARD CHAIR

KEEP BREVARD BEAUTIFUL – BOARD OF DIRECTORS (CURRENT), 2024-2025 BOARD CHAIR

MARINA ISLES HOA – PRESIDENT 5+ YEARS

BREVARD INDIAN RIVER LAGOON COALITION – COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION OUTREACH VOLUNTEER



December 16, 2024

Dear Sirs and Madams,

It is my pleasure to recommend the appointment of Deborah "Deb" Harmon to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

I have worked closely with Deb as part of the volunteer leadership on the Board of Directors of the Melbourne Regional Chamber of Florida's Space Coast, Inc. (where she served as Chair in 2023) and also Keep Brevard Beautiful, Inc. (where she currently serves as Chair). Deb's strategic mind, personal expertise, and collaborative spirit were quickly recognized by her peers in each of these organizations. These qualities led to Deb being selected for leadership early in each tenure.

As an Officer of the Melbourne Regional Chamber (including but not limited to her time as Board Chair), Deb has been a strong voice for the Indian River Lagoon in development of its advocacy agenda in recent years. Deb has represented the Chamber formally and informally with coalition groups and activities, including the 21st Indian River Lagoon Action Assembly this past summer. Deb's balanced approach to leadership-which is grounded in care for the organization's mission, stakeholders, and strategic objectives - has also been a structurally strengthening component for the Chamber that I have had the good fortune to inherit as a subsequent Board Chair.

As Board Chair of Keep Brevard Beautiful, Deb has been a true servant leader who is personally involved with activities benefitting the Indian River Lagoon and Brevard County as a whole. Deb has worked at tabletop environmental education events, including the 2024 Earth Day Celebration at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex and the recent Lagoon Straight Talk event presented by the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition, as well as the organization's cleanups. Here, too, Deb's balanced approach to leadership has been invaluable to the structure of the organization, and I have felt very reassured as a past Board Chair to know that it is under Deb's stewardship.

Deb's educational background and business experience also make her very knowledgeable about the subject matter of the environment in general and this important Committee in particular. In sum, I believe Deb's passion for the Indian River Lagoon and balanced approach to community leadership will make her an effective steward of taxpayer funds and a worthy member if appointed.

Best regards,



Mark J. Boyd  
384 Norwood Avenue Satellite  
Beach, FL 32937  
[mark.joseph.boyd@gmail.com](mailto:mark.joseph.boyd@gmail.com)

Dec. 19, 2024

Re: Recommendation for Deb Harmon for COC Membership

Dear Lagoon Supporters:

I am writing to express strong support for Deb Harmon's application to join the SOIRL COC. I have worked with Deb on a number of Lagoon related activities, and she has always been highly effective in identifying crucial issues, designing effective paths to success and facilitating enjoyable, collaborative solutions. Let me give an example.

At the end of 2023, the Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition wanted to raise awareness in the business community about the progress being made by the SOIRL program. The Greater Melbourne Chamber of Commerce was one of the key organizations we wanted to engage. Deb was asked to help with our engagement and has done an outstanding job.

First, she helped us prepare a briefing for the Chamber's Board (of some 40 people). The briefing went so well that the Board voted unanimously to support the Coalition's effort to educate its members and the community.

As a next step, she worked with leaders at the Brevard Zoo and the Coalition to identify community leaders for a working meeting at the Zoo to develop approaches to expand communications throughout Brevard to increase awareness of the progress being made by the SOIRL program. She then took the actual workshop output and analyzed it to help design a coordinated communication program enlisting more than 70 leading organizations (including the Space Coast Realtors Association, Visit Space Coast, the City of Palm Bay, the IRL NEP, and WFIT) to share simple, clear, concise messages about progress via social media on a monthly basis. This effort has produced impressive increases in awareness both in the organizations and in the community as a whole.

I believe her business, educational and environmental background make her an outstanding candidate who can bring strategic, operational and communications skills that will advance the COC's and SOIRL's success in Healing Our Lagoon.

Thank you for the opportunity to recommend Deb Harmon as a COC member.

Lew Kontnik, Brevard Indian River Lagoon Coalition (BIRLC), Vice Chair  
<https://www.facebook.com/BIRLC/>  
HelpTheLagoon.org  
<https://twitter.com/HelpTheLagoon>  
LewKontnik@gmail.com  
H/O 321 775 3327, C 805 558 2295



December 18, 2024

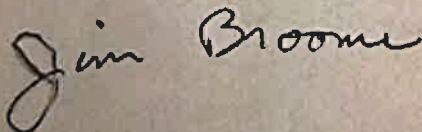
To Whom It May Concern:

As Chief Engineer for Orange County (FL) Utilities (OCU), I directed a multi-disciplined consulting team from Brown and Caldwell led by Deb Harmon as Project Officer to develop a sustainable infrastructure renewal/replacement program for wastewater gravity sewer, force main, and pump station infrastructure valued at more than \$2 billion. The purpose of this work was to provide a long-term strategy for successfully funding, renewing and managing these systems in a cost-effective way that would maintain a high level of reliability to prevent failures and related environmental consequences.

Deb interacted proactively with the OCU staff, her team of experts and specialized subconsultants to develop the program strategy and robust implementation plan. At every step of these multi-year efforts, Deb displayed a can-do attitude, creative thinking and a firm grasp of the technical matters at hand. She collaborated successfully with a variety of engineering, environmental, utility management, information technology, field maintenance and non-technical operations staff, contributing to workable solutions for the inherent challenges. Deb also demonstrated understanding and sensitivity to the fiscal obligations faced by public organizations responsible for stewardship of taxpayer and ratepayer funds by helping to establish the value and importance of these systems. These efforts by OCU staff, Deb and her team helped to build support for the infrastructure improvement program that was implemented.

Deb is a skilled professional, a strong advocate for infrastructure and the environment, and an outstanding person of integrity. I highly recommend her for an advisory board that could fully utilize her abilities and experiences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Broome". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jim Broome, P.E.  
Chief Engineer (Retired)  
446 SW Aviation Drive  
Lake City, FL 32025