



# Agenda Report

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson  
Way  
Viera, FL 32940

## Consent

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F.3.

2/11/2025

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### Subject:

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 consider confirming the League of Cities' request to shift their appointee, Nicholas Sanzone, from Science Alternate to Tourism Alternate and confirm Mark Schrope as the Science Alternate.

### 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. 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 January 28, 2025, the Board of County Commissioners filled all anticipated vacancies except the League of Cities' Tourism Alternate seat. All applicants for the Tourism Alternate seat were appointed to other seats, including the League of Cities' selection of Nicholas Sanzone to fill their vacant Science Alternate seat. However, there were other applicants for Science and Nicholas Sanzone applied for both Tourism and Science. The League reviewed the Science applications and selected Mark Schrope to be appointed.

Consider approval of the League of Cities' request to shift Nicholas Sanzone (application attached) from Science Alternate to Tourism Alternate and confirm Mark Schrope (application attached) as the Science

Alternate. A table showing all appointments to the Citizen Oversight Committee for the 2025 to 2027 term, including this requested action, is attached.

**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

February 12, 2025

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Virginia Barker, Natural Resources Management Director

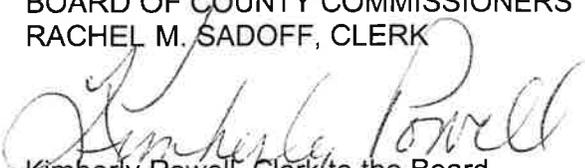
RE: Item F.3., Appointments to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Advisory Committee

The Board of County Commissioners, in regular session on February 11, 2025, approved and confirmed the League of Cities' request to shift their appointee, Nicholas Sanzone, from Science Alternate to Tourism Alternate, and to confirm Mark Schrope as the Science Alternate on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Advisory Committee.

Your continued cooperation is always appreciated.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
RACHEL M. SADOFF, CLERK

  
Kimberly Powell, Clerk to the Board

/tr

cc: County Manager

*Proposed*

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
 March 2025 - February 2027

Board Member/Alt.	Member Since	BC or LOC	Expertise
Donald Deis	Mar-23	BC	Science
<i>Mark Schrope</i>	Mar-25	LOC	Science
Richard Nipper	Mar-25	BC	Technology
Bruce Larson	Mar-25	LOC	Technology
Kimberly Newton	Sep-20	LOC	Lagoon Adv/Education
Deborah Harmon	Mar-25	BC	Lagoon Adv/Education
Laurilee Thompson	Mar-19	BC	Tourism
<i>Nicholas Sanzone</i>	Mar-25	LOC	Toursim
Richard Bankhead	Mar-25	LOC	Lagoon Commerce
Aaron Adams	Mar-25	BC	Lagoon Commerce
Curt Smith	Mar-23	LOC	Finance
Fred Goldstein	Mar-25	BC	Finance
Barbara Wall-Scanlon	Mar-23	BC	Real Estate
Eric Mannes	Mar-22	LOC	Real Estate
Charles Venuto	Dec-16	LOC	Emeritus
John Windsor	Dec-16	BC	Emeritus
Total Attending:			

Attended via telephone: Eley, Smith, Newton 1/17/2025

- Present P
- Absent A
- Excused E
- Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2025

Board Member/Alt.	Member Since	Total Years	BC or LOC	Expertise	1/17/25	2/21/25	3/21/25	4/18/25	5/16/25	June Break	7/18/25	8/15/25	9/19/25	10/17/25	11/21/25	12/19/25	
Lorraine Koss	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Science	P												
Charles Venufo	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Science	P												
Vinnie Taranto	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Technology	P												
Don Deis	Mar-23	1.9	LOC	Technology	P												
John Windsor	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Lagoon Adv.	P												
Terry Casto	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Lagoon Adv.	A												
Bobby Pulnam	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Tourism	P												
Laurice Thompson	Mar-19	5.9	LOC	Tourism	P												
Stephany Eley	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Education	P												
Kimberly Newton	Sep-20	4.4	BC	Education	P												
Todd Swingle	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Finance	A												
Curt Smith	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Finance	P												
Barbara Wall-Scanlon	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Real Estate	P												
Eric Mannes	Mar-22	2.9	LOC	Real Estate	P												
<b>Total Attending:</b>					<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Attended via telephonic: Eley, Smith, Newton 1/17/2025

- Present P
- Absent A
- Excused E
- Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2024

Board Member/Alt.	Member Since	Total Years	BC or LOC	Expertise	1/19/24	2/16/24	3/15/24	4/19/24	5/17/24	June Break	7/19/24	8/16/24	9/20/24	10/18/24	11/15/24	12/20/24
					P	P	P	P	A	E		P	A	P	P	P
Lorraine Koss	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Science	P	P	P	P	E		P	A	P	P	P	C
Charles Venuto	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Science	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Vinnie Taranto	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Technology	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Don Dels	Mar-23	1.9	LOC	Technology	P	P	P	P	E		P	P	E	P	P	C
John Windsor	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Terry Casto	Dec-16	8.2	BC	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	E	P	P		E	P*	P	P	P	C
Bobby Putnam	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Tourism	P	E	P	P	P		P	E	P	P	P	C
Laurilee Thompson	Mar-19	5.9	LOC	Tourism	P	P	P	P	P		E	P	P	P	P	C
Stephany Eley	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Education	E	P	P	P	P		P	A	P	P	P	C
Kimberly Newton	Sep-20	4.4	BC	Education	P	P	E	P	P		E	A	P	A	A	C
Todd Swingle	Dec-16	8.2	LOC	Finance	P	P	P	E	P		P	P	A	P	P	C
Curt Smith	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Finance	P	P	E	P	A		P	P	P	P	P	C
Barbara Wall-Scanlon	Mar-23	1.9	BC	Real Estate	P	P	P	P	P		E	P	P	P	P	C
Eric Mannes	Mar-22	2.9	LOC	Real Estate	P	P	P	P	P		P	P	P	A	P	C
<b>Total Attending:</b>					<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>

\* Attended via telephone

- Present P
- Absent A
- Excused E
- Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2023

Board Member/Alt.	Member Since	Total Years	Expertise	1/20/23	2/17/23	3/17/23	4/21/23	5/19/23	June Break	7/21/23	8/18/23	9/15/23	10/20/23	11/17/23	12/15/23
				P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
Lorraine Koss	Dec-16	8.2	Science	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P	C
Charles Venuto	Dec-16	8.2	Science	E	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Vinnie Taranto	Dec-16	8.2	Technology	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Don Deis	Mar-23	1.9	Technology	E	C	P	P	E		P	P	P	P	P	C
John Windsor	Dec-16	8.2	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	E	E		P	P	P	P	P	C
Terry Casto	Dec-16	8.2	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P		E	E	E*	E*	P	C
Bobby Putnam	Mar-23	1.9	Tourism	X	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	P	P	C
Laurilee Thompson	Mar-19	5.9	Tourism	E	C	P	P	P		P	P	A	E	P	C
Stephany Eley	Dec-16	8.2	Education	P	C	P	P	E		P	P	P	P	P	C
Kimberly Newton	Sep-20	4.4	Education	P	C	A	P	P		E	P	P	P	P	C
Todd Swingle	Dec-16	8.2	Finance	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P	C
Curt Smith	Mar-23	1.9	Finance	X	C	E	P	P		P	P	P	P	E*	C
Barbara Wall-Scanlon	Mar-23	1.9	Real Estate	X	C	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P	C
Eric Mannes	Mar-22	2.9	Real Estate	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	A	P	P	C
Total Attending:				10	0	12	13	11	0	12	13	8	12	13	0

\* Attended via telephone

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2022

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/21/22	2/18/22	3/18/22	4/15/22	5/20/22	June Break	7/15/22	8/19/22	9/16/22	10/21/22	11/18/22	12/16/22
Lorraine Koss	Science	P	C	P	E	P		P	P	E	C	P	C
Charles Venuto	Science	P	C	P	P	P		E	P	P	C	E	C
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
David Sherrer	Technology	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	E	C	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
David Lane	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P		E	P	P	C	E	C
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P		P	E	E	C	P	C
Stephany Eley	Education	P	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
Kimberly Newton	Education	P	C	P	P	P		E	P	P	C	A	C
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	C	P	E	P		E	P	P	C	P	C
Todd Swingle	Finance	P-late	C	E	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
Susan Hodgers	Real Estate	P-late	C	P	P	P		P	P	P	C	P	C
Eric Mannes	Real Estate	N/A	C	13	12	14	0	9	13	11	0	10	0

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2021

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/15/21	2/19/21	3/19/21	4/16/21	5/21/21	June Break	7/16/21	8/20/21	9/17/21	10/15/21	11/19/21	12/17/21
Lorraine Koss	Science	E	C	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	C
Charles Venuto	Science	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
David Sherrer	Technology	n/a	C	n/a	n/a	P	C	E	P	P	P	P	C
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P	C	E	E	P	E	P	C
David Lane	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	C
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	E	P	P	C
Stephany Eley	Education	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P-Late	C
Kimberly Newton	Education	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	C	P	P	P	C	E	P	P	P	P	C
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	A	C
Susan Hodgers	Real Estate	n/a	C	P	E	P	C	P	E	E	P	E	C
Dennis Basile	Real Estate	P	C	P	P	E	C	A	A	A	A	Vacant	C

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Attendee Listing  
January - December 2021

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/15/21	2/19/21	3/19/21	4/16/21	5/21/21	June Break	7/16/21	8/20/21	9/17/21	10/15/21	11/19/21	12/17/21
Lorraine Koss	Science	E	C	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	C
Charles Venuto	Science	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
David Sherrer	Technology	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	P	C	E	P	P	P	P	C
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P	C	P	P	P	C	E	E	P	E	P	C
David Lane	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	E	C
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Stephany Eley	Education	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P-Late	C
Kimberly Newton	Education	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	C	P	P	P	C	E	P	P	P	P	C
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	C	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	A	C
Susan Hodgers	Real Estate	n/a	n/a	P	E	P	C	P	E	E	P	E	C
Dennis Basile	Real Estate	P	C	P	P	E	C	A	A	A	A	Vacant	C

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Canceled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
Attendee Listing  
January - December 2020

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/17/20	2/21/20	3/20/20	4/17/20	5/15/20	June Break	7/17/20	8/21/20	9/18/20	10/16/20	11/20/20	12/18/20
Lorraine Koss	Science	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Charles Venuto	Science	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
John Luznar	Technology	P	A	C	P	P	C	E	A	P	E	E	C
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	E	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
David Lane	Tourism	P	E	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	E	P	C
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism	P-Late	P-Late	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Stephany Eley	Education	P-Late	P-Late	C	P	P	C	P	P	E	P	P	C
Melissa Martin	Education	P	E	C	P	P	C	P	resigned	n/a	n/a	n/a	C
Kimberly Newton	Education	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	P	P	P	C
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	C
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	A	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Jay Moynahan	Real Estate	P	P	C	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	C
Dennis Basile	Real Estate	P	P	C	P	P	C	E	A	P	A	P	C

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Attendee Listing

January - December 2019

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/18/19	2/15/19	3/15/19	4/19/19	5/17/19	June Break	7/19/19	8/16/19	9/20/19	10/18/19	11/15/19	12/13/19
Lorraine Koss	Science	P	P	P	P	P-Late	C	P	P	P	E	C	P
Charles Veruto	Science	P	P	P	P	P	C	E	P	P	P	C	P
John Luznar	Technology				P	E	C	P	P	E	E	C	P
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	C	P
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	C	P
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	E	E	P	P	P-Late	C	P	E	P	P-Late	C	E
David Lane	Tourism	P	P	P	P	E	C	P	E	P	P	C	P
Laurilee Thompson	Tourism			P	P	P	C	P	P	P-Late	P	C	P-Late
Stephany Eley	Education	P	P	E	P-Late	P-Late	C	P	P	P-Late	P-Late	C	P
Melissa Martin	Education	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	C	P
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	P	P	E	P	C	P	P	P	P	C	P
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	E	C	P-Late
Dennis Basile	Real Estate			P	P	E	C	P	P	P	P	C	P
Danielle Bowden	Real Estate	E	P	P	P	A	C	P	P	P-Late	Resigned	C	n/a
Jay Moynahan	Real Estate											C	P

Present P  
 Absent A  
 Excused E  
 Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
Attendee Listing  
January - December 2019

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/18/19	2/15/19	3/15/19	4/19/19	5/17/19	June Break	7/19/19	8/16/19	9/20/19	10/18/19	11/15/19	12/13/19
Lorraine Koss	Science	P	P										
Charlie Venuto	Science	P	P										
John Byron	Technology	E	resigned										
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	P										
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	P										
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	E	E										
David Lane	Tourism	P	P										
Karen McLaughlin	Tourism	P	P										
Stephany Eley	Education	P	P										
John Durkee	Education	P	P										
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	P										
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	P										
<b>Vacant</b>	Real Estate	n/a	n/a										
Danielle Bowden	Real Estate	E	P										

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
Attendee Listing  
January - December 2018

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/19/18	2/16/18	3/16/18	4/20/18	5/18/18	6/15/18	7/20/18	8/17/18	9/21/18	10/19/18	11/16/18	12/21/18
Lorraine Koss	Science	P	P	P	E	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Charlie Venuto	Science	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	E	P	E	P
John Byron	Technology	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	P
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P	E	P	E	P	C	E	E	P	P	P	P
David Lane	Tourism	P	P	P	P	E	C	P	P	P	P	E	E
Karen McLaughlin	Tourism	A	P	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	E
Stephany Eley	Education	P	P	P-Late	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
John Durkee	Education	P	E	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	A	P	P-Late	P	P
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	P	A	P	P	C	P	P	P	E	P	A
Gene Artusa	Real Estate	E	P	P	P	P	C	E	P	E	E	Resigned	n/a
Danielle Bowden	Real Estate	P	E	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	E	P	P

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
Attendee Listing  
January - December 2017

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	1/20/17	2/17/17	3/17/17	4/21/17	5/19/17	6/16/17	7/21/17	8/18/17	9/15/17	10/20/17	11/17/17	12/15/17
Lorraine Koss	Science	E	E	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	E
Charlie Venuto	Science	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	E	P	P	P
John Byron	Technology	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P	P	P	P	P	C	E	E	P	P	P	P
David Lane	Tourism	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	E	P	P
Karen McLaughlin	Tourism	P	P	P	A	P	C	P	P	P	P	E	P
Stephany Eley	Education	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
John Durkee	Education	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	P	P	P	P	P
Courtney Barker	Finance	P	P	P	P	P	C	P	E	P	P	P	P
Todd Swingle	Finance	P	P	P	E	P	C	P	P	E	E	P	P
Gene Artusa	Real Estate	P	E	E	P	P	C	E	P	P	P	A	P
Danielle Bowden	Real Estate	E	P	P	P	P	C	E	P	E	P	P	E

Present P  
Absent A  
Excused E  
Cancelled C

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee  
 Attendee Listing  
 December 16, 2016

Board Member/Alt.	Expertise	#####																		
Lorraine Koss	Science	P																		
Charlie Venuto	Science	P																		
John Byron	Technology	P																		
Vinnie Taranto	Technology	P																		
John Windsor	Lagoon Adv.	P																		
Terry Casto	Lagoon Adv.	P																		
David Lane	Tourism	P																		
Karen McLaughlin	Tourism	P																		
Stephany Eley	Education	E																		
John Durkee	Education	P																		
Courtney Barker	Finance	P																		
Todd Swingle	Finance	P																		
Gene Artusa	Real Estate	P																		
Danielle Bowden	Real Estate	P																		

Present P  
 Absent A  
 Excused E

Brevard County Marine Advisory Council  
Attendee Listing  
January - December 2017

Board Member	District	1/19/17	2/18/17	3/16/17	4/20/17	5/18/17	6/15/17	7/20/17	8/17/17	9/21/17	10/19/17	11/16/17	12/21/17
Mike Cunningham	2												
Dan Daniels	1												
Kelly Haugh	2												
William Lewis	1												
John Stone	4												
John Mongioi	5												
John "Mike" Reisert	4												
Ron Rincones	3												
Jim Rosasco	3												
John "Jay" Woltering	5												

P = Present, E = Excused Absence, U = Unexcused Absence, A = Absent, W=Withdraw, N/A  
C = Cancelled Meeting

Brevard County Marine Advisory Council  
 Attendee Listing  
 January - December 2009

Board Member	District	Term Exp.	1/15/09	2/19/09	3/19/09	4/16/09	5/21/09	6/18/09	7/16/09	8/20/09	9/17/09	10/15/09	11/19/09	12/17/09
Jerry Butz	4	12/31/09	P	P	E	P								
Gene Catej	3	12/31/09	^ ^ ^ ^	P	P	A								
Mike Cunningham	3	12/31/09	P	P	P	P								
Gary Hanlin	4	12/31/09	P	P	P	P								
Doug Jaren	2	12/31/09	E	P	E	U								
Jim Mazza	1	12/31/09	P	P	P	P								
Rick McCrary	1	12/31/09	E	P	P	A								
John Mongioi	5	12/31/09	P	P	T	P								
Joe Penovich	5	12/31/09	^ ^ ^ ^	^ ^ ^ ^	^ ^ ^ ^	P								
George Reynolds	2	12/31/09	P	P	E	E								

P = Present, E = Excused Absence, U = Unexcused Absence, A = Absent, T = via Telephone

## 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	Nicholas	F	Sanzone
	First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name

nicholasfranksanzone@gmail.com  
Email Address

1539 Croftwood Drive	
<small>Home Address</small>	<small>Suite or Apt</small>

Melbourne	FL	32935
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

Mobile: (321) 213-2879	
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

#### 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.**

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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.**

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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.**

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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

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,



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

### 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	<b>Mark</b>	Middle Initial	<b>Schrope</b>
	First Name		Last Name

**mschrope@schmidtmarine.org**  
Email Address

<b>8592 Sylvan Dr.</b>	Suite or Apt
<small>Home Address</small>	

<b>Melbourne</b>	<b>FL</b>	<b>32904</b>
<small>City</small>	<small>State</small>	<small>Postal Code</small>

<b>Mobile: (407) 376-4678</b>	<b>Business: (321) 956-8431</b>
<small>Primary Phone</small>	<small>Alternate Phone</small>

#### 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

#### 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.**

---

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 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

[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 pfiisteria 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 KEVIN SCHROPE**

8592 Sylvan Dr., Melbourne, Florida 32904

Office: (321) 956-8431

Mobile: (407) 376-4678

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 Bay region.
- 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 Schrope 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edith Widder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Edith Widder  
CEO & Senior Scientist