

Horst, Rachel

From: CEER@brevardfl.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 7, 2026 3:57 PM
To: Horst, Rachel
Subject: A new CEER Recommendation has been submitted as ID #2026017

Recommendation # 2026017

Dear CEER Administrator,

Speak Up Brevard Recommendation ID #2026017 has been submitted. Please login to the CEER Application to start the recommendation evaluation workflow.

Contact Information:

Group/Organization

Name Lynn Patow
Address 254 CANAVERAL BEACH BLVD, CAPE CANAVERAL FL 32920
Phone (321) 520-3144
Email coolguyzacinc@gmail.com
Alternate Email

Recommendation Information:

Recommendation ID 2026017
Recommendation Title water quality
Areas Affected BREVARD COUNTY
Department Affected Public Works Department
Current problem OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS I HAVE WITNESSED THE QUALITY OF OUR WATERS DECLINE. OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON DOES NOT HAVE THE VARIETY OF LIFE WHICH WAS PLENTIFUL IN THE 1990'S. OUR OCEAN REEFS - I WISH I COULD SHOW YOU SIDE BY SIDE VIDEOS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY FIRST DIVES IN THE 1990'S AND MY LAST (2018) - DEVASTATING. I NO LONGER DIVE ON REEFS AS THEY DO BETTER WITHOUT HUMANS NOT TO MENTION THE WATER FROM OUR TAPS! THE WATER WE PAY TO CONSUME HERE IS OF THE POOREST QUALITY. OUR WATER IS LOADED WITH CHLORINE AND CONTAMINANTS.
Recommendation I PROPOSE THE COUNTY CHALLENGE OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS. WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE - LET'S SET HIGHER STANDARDS FOR IT'S QUALITY.
Attachments No Documents were attached.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Jim Liesenfelt, County Manager
THRU: Tad Calkins, Assistant County Manager
FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management Dept. *AE*
SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2026017

CEER #2026017, titled Water Quality, was received by the County from Lynn Patow.

Citizen Statement:

OVER THE LAST THIRTY YEARS I HAVE WITNESSED THE QUALITY OF OUR WATERS DECLINE. OUR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON DOES NOT HAVE THE VARIETY OF LIFE WHICH WAS PLENTIFUL IN THE 1990'S. OUR OCEAN REEFS - I WISH I COULD SHOW YOU SIDE BY SIDE VIDEOS OF THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MY FIRST DIVES IN THE 1990'S AND MY LAST (2018) - DEVASTATING. I NO LONGER DIVE ON REEFS AS THEY DO BETTER WITHOUT HUMANS

NOT TO MENTION THE WATER FROM OUR TAPS! THE WATER WE PAY TO CONSUME HERE IS OF THE POOREST QUALITY. OUR WATER IS LOADED WITH CHLORINE AND CONTAMINANTS.

Citizen Recommendation:

I PROPOSE THE COUNTY CHALLENGE OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO OUR WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS.

WATER IS ESSENTIAL TO LIFE - LET'S SET HIGHER STANDARDS FOR IT'S QUALITY.

Staff Analysis:

Although the County does not have jurisdiction over school curriculum, the Natural Resources Management Department (NRM) has been actively engaged in water quality and pollution prevention outreach and education for decades. The Lagoon Loyal program (formerly Blue Life), www.lagoonloyal.com, was developed to address the thousands of pounds of excess algae-feeding nutrients that enter the Indian River Lagoon through groundwater and stormwater. This program serves as the cornerstone of the County's public education and outreach efforts required under Brevard's NPDES permit. To satisfy permit requirements, NRM staff conduct stormwater pollution prevention presentations for children in schools and at appropriate community events, such as the annual Indian River Lagoon Day. These presentations help students

understand the sources of pollution and the simple actions they and their families can take to reduce pollution and help protect the lagoon.

In addition to NPDES permit-required outreach, NRM staff routinely participate in student-focused environmental programs. These include Envirothon, North America's largest high school environmental education competition; ORCA's annual "Day in the Life of the Indian River Lagoon," where dozens of student groups across the estuary collect samples and conduct field analysis; and mostly recently, a water quality focused presentation to the Sea Turtle Conservancy Action Ambassadors. Lastly, NRM staff hosts BRAVE volunteers interested in hands-on environmental experience, participates in career days when requested, and serve as judges for local science fairs.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners accept CEER #2026017 with revisions because as stated in staff analysis, Natural Resources Management staff routinely participate in student-focused environmental programs, host BRAVE volunteers interested in hands-on environmental experience, participate in career days when requested, and serve as judges for local science fairs.