



NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Building A-219, Viera, FL 32940

**Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee
Volunteer Application**

Due: October 1, 2016

Name: Lorraine L. Koss
Mailing Address: 2115 N. Indian River Drive
City: Cocoa **State:** Florida
Zip Code: 32922
Phone: [Click here to enter text.](#) **Cell Phone:** 703-201-8811
Email: Lorraine.koss@gmail.com

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: science, technology, economics/finance, real estate, education/outreach, tourism, or lagoon advocacy. Knowledge of the water quality issues and the major sources of pollution affecting the lagoon are highly desirable.

Members will oversee progress and make recommendations to the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) on spending an estimated \$303 million from sales tax revenue to **Reduce** pollution sources to the lagoon, **Remove** legacy pollution from the lagoon bottom, **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 will include participation in meetings to evaluate data to measure 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 the projects, and recommend plan revisions accordingly. The Committee shall address 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.

Please complete the following questions and statements.

1. Do you reside in Brevard County? Yes No Number of years 5

2. Are you willing to serve on the Committee for a minimum of two (2) years and be available to attend multiple weekday meetings annually, as needed? Yes No

3. Please check next to one or more of the following that best match(es) 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

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.

See attachments for responses to questions 4-7.

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.

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

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.

Additional Requirements

In addition to this application, a resume/CV 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, resume, and letter(s) of reference to:

Marie Winkler, Administrative Assistant to the Director

Marie.Winkler@brevardfl.gov

Phone: 321-633-2016, Fax: 321-633-2029

Lorraine L. Koss

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Volunteer Application

ATTACHMENT – Responses to Questions 4-7.

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.

As a “Neighbor of the Lagoon,” enjoying its vistas, walking its shores, I feel a responsibility to assist to the best of my ability in its restoration. I want to apply my academic training and experience in water quality issues with my energy and talents in communication and consensus building to serve oversight that insures the long term success of the plan for the Lagoon’s recovery.

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 bring a 25-year background tackling water quality and quantity issues. Through my work at the municipal and national level I’ve been exposed to a broad scope of problems as well as management approaches and solutions. This includes shifting the paradigm within the water sector toward green infrastructure that complements grey. I’ve had the opportunity to sit at the cutting edge of new technologies and approaches.

My graduate work in environmental management has prepared me with tools in environmental valuation, risk management and decision analysis. It’s also disciplined me to use a triple bottom line approach taking into account economic, environmental and social factors. My undergraduate in communications has been valuable as public information, outreach and involvement are key to all water issues. This is particularly true of the Lagoon where we will need to maintain public support and actions to serve restoration.

More recently, I’ve worked with the Marine Resources Council to raise funds on a volunteer basis. Per consultant agreement, I’ve written a communications and business plan to promote the upcoming IRL Report Card planned for 2018. The four-month writing process (concluded in August) involved researching the history of the Lagoon, as well as the community response in meeting the challenges. I learned a great deal through interviews and research. The Report Card is meant to be a science-based analysis that will be another communications tool to build citizen understanding of our progress and needs going forward. Having lived in the Chesapeake watershed for many years I was eager to take on this project. I knew first-hand how an annual report developed public understanding and commitment over the long haul.

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

Much of my communications work in the water environment has been in partnership building. Early on I did work at the municipal level to shift the paradigm toward the watershed approach that is commonly used today. I organized environmental educators from formal and informal education organizations to amplify more unified messages for effectiveness. I coordinated and worked with the Value of Water Coalition to establish systems of trust through values statements and decision protocols. That coalition is still in operation today.

In 2014-15, I helped facilitate the Mississippi River Nutrient Dialogues. We brought together leaders from the farming and water service leaders in first-time discussions to seek nutrient reduction approaches that might curb the gulf dead-zone. There were very contentious conversations. I quickly learned the value of trust and integrity as a first step in negotiation. Through a series of sessions, spread out over several years, enough consensus was reached to make actionable recommendations.

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 Citizen Oversight Committee will be the Lagoon's restoration first line of defense. Its existence and effectiveness will be critical for continued public support over the next decade. Any real, or perceived, conflict of interest by the Committee will feed the common fear of citizens that their dollars are squandered.

Working in the non-profit sector most of my career and with Boards of Directors has made me sensitive to ensuring that conflicts of interest do not occur. In fact, on more than one occasion, I had the responsibility of confronting Board member conflicts of interest. Doing so wasn't comfortable, but essential, because an organization's most valuable asset is its reputation. It has been my role to guard that integrity. Of course, the same will hold true for each person serving on this advisory committee.

If selected, the League of Women Voters, through my representation, will hold a high standard for integrity in maintaining the public interest.

EDUCATION:

Duke University • Durham, N.C. • Masters Environmental Management • 2009
Trinity University • Washington D.C. • Communications • 1997

EXPERIENCE:

Contract & Volunteer Services • 2016

Projects include writing a Business/Communications plan for the Indian River Lagoon Report Card (Marine Resources Council) and organizing support for FL SUN co-ops (Florida Solar United Neighborhoods).

U.S. Water Alliance • Deputy Director • 2010 – January, 2016

Managed operations and development for a policy focused national, D.C. based non-profit with \$2M annual budget. Identified and implemented program opportunities for briefings, conferences, and recognition programs to help usher in the paradigm shift toward green infrastructure and resource recovery solutions within the water sector. Convened national dialogues of diverse sector leaders, water, business, agriculture, non-profit. Responsible for public communications, press relations, branding, etc. Directed programs (2 junior staff), most notably:

- Mississippi River Nutrient Dialogues – discussions between agriculture and water managers to reach consensus on policy recommendations.
- One Water Leadership Summit – national conference in different cities, 300 attendees, 2-day program for peer exchange and education;
- U.S. Water Prize – solicitation of candidates and facilitation of review panels, gala and ceremony planning, attended by 300 at National Geographic headquarters;
- Value of Water Coalition public relations campaign – support and development coalition of leaders to raise profile of need for investment in water infrastructure.

Water Environment Federation • Senior Manager Public Communications • 1993–2009

Developed national public education program from its genesis – strategic planning, fundraising (\$250K annual budget), branding, and media relations. Mobilized network of volunteers for advocacy and knowledge sharing. Liaison to committees, associations and agencies forming national and grassroots coalitions, partnerships, etc. Extensive public speaking at U.S. Member Association conferences, Australia, Canada and China, as well as many water related public events. Managed U.S. EPA Biosolids Public Acceptance Campaign grant (250K). Created numerous programs and products for internal and external target audiences including:

- *Water Is Life, and Infrastructure Makes It Happen* – awareness campaign for rate-payers on the need to invest in water and wastewater infrastructure;
- U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize – national high school science competition culminating in annual 3-day event hosting 150 students, teachers, and parents;
- *WEF Teach* – annual full-day teachers workshop on water issues.

Koss Resume

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Utility Department • Administrative Officer • 1987–1992

Established CMUD's community relations program. Responsible for the city's involvement in all public outreach programs including school education, National Drinking Water Week, partnerships/sponsorships, watershed festivals and cleanups, xeriscape education, historic designation of properties, community and media relations.

WTVI/Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Broadcasting Authority • Assistant to Development Director • 1982 – 1986

Worked under the mentorship of the Development Director assisting in all aspects of fund-raising for public broadcasting. Responsible for membership records; on-air membership drive promotions; recruitment, training, and organization of more than 100 volunteers per drive including solicitation of corporate sponsorships for volunteer expenses. Stage management and camera operation for *After Dark* concert series.

APPOINTMENTS:

Water Utility Advisory Board, City of Cocoa, 2014-present
League of Women Voters Space Coast Board Member, 2016-present
Groundwater Foundation Technical Review Board, 2000-2005
Keep America Beautiful Public Education Advisory Board, 1994-1997
Chair & Founder of the NC Water for People chapter, 1989-1992

AWARDS:

Associations Advance America Honor Roll, *Water Is Life*, 2010
National Association of Environmental Professionals, *The Water Sourcebook*, 1998
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *The Water Sourcebook* series, 1998
American Society of Association Executives, *WEF Teach*, 1997
Charlotte Mecklenburg Earth Coalition, *Water Woman*, 1991

AFFILIATIONS:

Indian River Lagoon Coalition member
Marine Resources Council member
Sierra Club Seaturtle Chapter member
The Climate Project presenter (Gore trainee), 2006 & 2007
Virginia Cooperative Extension – Master Gardener 2001
Yoga Alliance, registered teacher, 2007-present



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF FLORIDA

September 29, 2016

To Whom It May Concern;

The League of Women Voters of the Space Coast is delighted to recommend Lorraine Koss for appointment to the Indian River Citizen Oversight Committee proposed by the Brevard County Commissioners, pending voter approval.

As a new member of the League, Lorraine has earned a seat on the Board of Directors. Her leadership and communication skills are strengths so needed on Committees and Boards. She willingly shares her exemplary knowledge on the complex issues concerning the environment, clean energy, and water management. Currently she is heading up our solar vision for Florida, and has worked tirelessly to coordinate the community with diplomacy and research.

The League sincerely thanks you for the opportunity to submit Lorraine's name for your consideration. We believe the community and our Lagoon will be the beneficiary of her presence on the Citizen Oversight Committee. I would be happy to answer any questions regarding our recommendation.

Sincerely,

Fran Baer

Fran Baer, Co-President
League of Women Voters of the Space Coast
321 264-1465
fbaer@cfl.rr.com



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

September 30, 2016

Virginia Barker, Director
c/o Marie Winkler, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department
Viera Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg A
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Ms. Barker:

I write in strong support of Lorraine Koss becoming a member of the Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee.

Having worked closely with Lorraine from December 2010 through January 2015 at the US Water Alliance (USWA), I can tell you she excels in all the necessary skills to advance the important work of restoring and protecting Indian River Lagoon. Ms. Koss is a recognized expert in wastewater/stormwater; has extensive experience in consensus/partnership building; and has demonstrated great skill over the years in water environment communication/education and strategic development of policies, programs, and budgets. In particular, she helped lead USWA efforts to engage citizens in local and regional restoration projects. All of these talents and skills would help Lorraine provide useful advice in the implementation and revision of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Protection Plan.

I know how critical citizen oversight is to the success of IRL cleanup and protection efforts. Prior to working with Lorraine at USWA, I was head of EPA's national water program and prior to that, environmental counsel to the Congressional Committee that authorized Army Corps of Engineers and EPA water projects, including IRL.

Please let me know if I can provide additional information or assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,

Thanks

Ben Grumbles
Secretary



Department of Political Science

September 30, 2016

Virginia Barker, Director
c/o Marie Winkler, Administrative Assistant to the Director
Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department
Viera Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way, Bldg A
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Ms. Barker,

It is with great pleasure that I write to strongly support Lorraine Koss' application to serve as volunteer on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Clearly Ms. Koss has the expertise and professional experience to be a highly effective committee member in multiple fields including science and technology, finance, education and outreach, and lagoon advocacy.

As Deputy Director of the U.S. Water Alliance Ms. Koss managed budgets of millions of dollars, and implemented programs that required extensive knowledge and experience in water infrastructure and management. Ms. Koss organized conferences aimed at forming partnerships and building consensus among leaders of diverse critical sectors in relation to water restoration and conservation projects. In addition, she has excellent communication, fund raising, and education outreach skills. In sum, Ms. Koss will bring to the committee a set of skills, knowledge, talents, experience, and good judgement that will make an outstanding contribution to the success of the committee's goals.

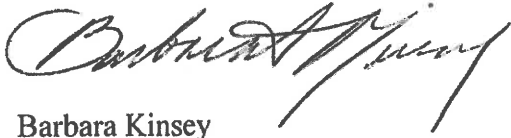
I have known Ms. Koss since 2012 when she moved to the City of Cocoa from Washington D.C. And since her arrival Ms. Koss has been an excellent and energetic citizen engaging in community activities and succeeding in her organizing efforts mainly related to issues of environmental protection and conservation. Ms. Koss has volunteered on carrying out a number of public events including fund raising for the Marine Resources Council, and building support for Florida SUN co-ops. She is currently serving as a Board Member on the League of Women Voters of Space Coast, and as a member of the City of Cocoa's Water Utility Advisory Board. Her collaborators, friends, and neighbors think very highly of Ms. Koss as a person, and of her leadership and accomplishments.

Ms. Koss' commitment to public service is exemplary. As a member of the River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee Ms. Koss will serve the public interest effectively and responsibly.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at Barbara.kinsey@ucf.edu

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Kinsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Barbara Kinsey
Associate Professor



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd Rutherford
Lieutenant Governor

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

September 30, 2016

Virginia Barker, Director
c/o Marie Winkler, Administrative Assistant to the Director
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Sincerely,

Thanks

Ben Grumbles
Secretary