

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.

I would also like to mention that some of my most early memories in my life are of playing, fishing, crabbing, boating, kayaking... in the lagoon and Cape Canaveral and all over Brevard County. While I grew up in eastern Orange County, I have spent my entire life in the waters of Brevard.

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
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 can all help by making personal changes and becoming aware of what needs to be done.
7. Green Industries- Best Management Practices certification, "An educational program, for people working in the lawn care and landscaping professions; that teaches environmentally safe landscaping practices to help conserve and protect Florida's ground and surface waters." IFAS University of Florida Extension
8. Florida Friendly Landscaping program, IFAS University of Florida Extension
9. Member, Family and Consumer Sciences Advisory Board, Orange County Extension, IFAS University of Florida 2010-2019

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 mission of the board in tact and achieving the benchmark goals for the restoration.

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
Phone: 321-633-2016