



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: Charlie Venuto
Mailing Address: 1325 Trout St
City: Merritt Island **State:** Fl.
Zip Code: 32952
Phone: 321 452-3609 **Cell Phone:** 321 917-4510
Email: Charlie.venuto@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 38

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.

I moved to Melbourne in 1978 as a Florida Institute of Technology graduate student in the Environmental Science program. From my first visit to Melbourne, I was enchanted by the ocean and the lagoon. I was amazed at the birds, dolphins and manatees that made the lagoon their home. My first residence was at the old Mid-Way Colony and although these cottages had long seen their good days, the property was on the lagoon where I could fish and observe wildlife. I soon moved into another cottage on Melbourne Ave. with Crane Creek in the back yard. Here with my future wife and classmate we canoed and fished on the lagoon. A commercial fisherman lived behind us and he took me on his boat to obtain black mullet in the Turkey Creek area that I used to conduct my research for my masters thesis. I was fortunate to work with Dr. John Trefry (before he was "Dr. Muck") and help to establish some background information on the concentration on heavy metals in the lagoon system.

Fast forward 35 years and I find myself once again living on the lagoon, now on a little inlet that leads to a canal system and eventually to the lagoon. In the two years on this property I witnessed an already stressed ecosystem deteriorate to a point where I wonder if it can recover. The lagoon had been known as the "Sea Trout Capital of the World." It has been a long time since that term has been used and I want to work so we can recover that title.

The IRL runs the entire length of our county and is the one commonality for the community and region. The health of the lagoon is a reflection of our values and as a region we need to repair and sustain this resource.

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.

After graduating with a MS in Environmental Science I embarked on a career in 1981 as an Environmental Professional working on the Space Shuttle Program. My first job took me to Huntsville, AL but I returned to the area within 9 months when I was transferred and I became one of the first environmental engineers at the Kennedy Space Center. I was

fortunate to work on the shuttle program for over 30 years and throughout this time period I took on progressively responsible positions in the environmental area. My department focused on compliance with air, water, and waste regulations and methods to reduce pollutants. All of these efforts were intended to protect human health and the environment. In my current position as the Director of Environmental, Health and Safety at the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex I continue this journey of maintaining compliance but also satisfying the International Standard Organization (ISO) 14001 for Environmental Management Systems. The ISO 14001 Standard requires a documented and rigorous management system to not only comply with the requirements but also to continually improve environmental performance through efforts to reduce pollutants, increase recycling and educating the workforce on local environmental issues.

I earned two additional advanced degrees while working at KSC- a MS in Environmental Policy and Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an Educational Specialist degree from FIT.

I am an adjunct professor at the American Public University (APU). APU is an on-line university with a large military (active and retired) student population. I teach several classes in the environmental science program. APU has also sponsored research I conducted on the creation of the Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge and Brevard County's premiere environmental residents-Allan and Helen Cruickshank

I am currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Merritt Island Wildlife Association- the friends group for the refuge. I am also past president of the Space Coast Audubon Society and an original member of the Friends of Ullumay Wildlife Refuge

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?

As a member of management for 25 years I learned to be successful I must carefully listen to employee issues and provide coaching, advice and direction. I also have to promote the environmental, safety and health programs across departments often striving to go beyond compliance. Listening, reasoning and team building skills are required to be successful. I believe in getting to yes sometimes require compromise and negotiations. Most importantly the decisions reached by the SOIRLOC must be based on scientific principles and I believe my education and professional practices can assist in reaching these decisions.

I help to organize a team-building program between a company I worked for at KSC and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. For an entire week KSC and FDEP employees worked together to develop and implement solutions to reduce pollutants and increase compliance. Both parties demonstrated a willingness to work cooperatively rather than as

regulators and the regulated. This event showed me that when drawn to a common goal people and organizations could lay their differences aside to accomplish good work. This event was recognized as the best continuous improvement event at KSC the year is occurred.

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 process must be transparent and avoid any situation that is or even appears to be a conflict of interest. The committee members need to rise above partisanship and work to avoid putting self-interest above the goals of the committee. Working at KSC I learned how important it is to obtain input from multiple contractors and to understand proposals and to make sure when reviewing proposals to make certain to level the playing field and make fair comparisons. There is a high distrust of government by many segments and it is critical that all approved expenditures are valid and accountable. All expenditures and the projects they support should be explainable and understandable to all citizens.

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

Charles Venuto

1325 Trout Str. Merritt Island, FL 32952 charlie.venuto@gmail.com 321 917-4510

Core Competencies

- Established leadership skills
 - Ability to work cooperatively with NASA and regulatory agencies
 - Competent in EHS regulations, sustainability concepts and continuous improvement tools
 - Proven communication skills
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Experience

2014-Present **Delaware North Parks and Resorts at KSC, Inc.**

Director, Environmental, Health & Safety

Led EHS team to create and implement policies and procedures to maintain compliance with OSHA, EPA, FDEP and NASA requirements and maintain ISO 14001 certification. Served as Site Emergency coordinator. Managed effort to develop a safety management system that would be compatible with the OSHA VPP.

Highlights:

This was a new position at DNC. The direct reporting of EHS to the COO provided a platform for ESH programs to mature and advance. As an illustration, 2015 was the first time emergency evacuation drills were performed for all facilities at the KSC Visitor Complex.

2011-2014 **Siemens Energy, Inc, Orlando, FL**

EHS Specialist

Successfully developed and implemented Environmental, Health and Safety programs for wind energy construction projects. Certified lead auditor responsible for maintaining the EHS Management System including ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certifications at multiple sites. Administer programs for compliance with federal and multiple state air pollution permits, chemical and waste management programs and stormwater pollution prevention plans.

Highlights:

Created new programs for the transportation of dangerous goods and management of chemicals. Developed and taught training classes for these new programs.

Assisted in obtaining ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 certification for a new factory in Canada by performing assessments, assigning findings and working with management to close the findings.

1981-2011 **Environmental Engineer/Environmental Manager at the Kennedy Space Center. USBI Co & United Space Alliance**

Led Environmental Management department for prime Space Shuttle processing contractors. Achieved compliance with a vast array of regulatory requirements. Directed the creation of company environmental policies and procedures including waste management, SPCC, NEPA, pollution prevention and hazard communication. Oversee environmental contractors for the development of permit applications. Conducted Industrial Hygiene evaluations of work place hazards.

Highlights:

Responsible for pollution prevention programs which in one year reduced toxic air emissions by 75% and hazardous wastes by 35%. Established and participated in several partnering relationships with NASA and environmental regulatory agencies.

Company certified to ISO 14001.
Three times Employee of the Month and Launch Honoree.

2010-PRESENT **American Public University/American Military University System**

Adjunct Professor

Instruct courses in environmental law and regulations.

2004-2011 **Brevard Community College Cocoa, FL**

Adjunct Professor

Instruct courses in Environmental Science, Fundamentals of Biology, Environmental Law and Industrial Hygiene.

Education, Credentials, Community

- **Florida Institute of Technology 2007- EdS Science Education**
- **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 1999-M.S. Environmental Management and Policy**
- **Florida Institute of Technology 1980-M.S. Environmental Science**
- **State University College at Buffalo, NY 1977-B.A. Biology**
- **Certified Hazardous Materials Manager**
- **Certified Lead ISO 14001 and OHSAS auditor**
- **Certified Dangerous Goods/HazMat Shipper**
- **Member of Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge Association Board of Directors**

Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.

200 Deland Avenue
Indialantic, Florida 32903

ddoceanfl@gmail.com

321-313-0764

September 30, 2016

Letter of Recommendation: Charles Venuto
IRL Citizen Oversight Committee

ATTN: Marie Winkler:

Please accept this letter of recommendation to support Charles Venuto's application for appointment as a member of the Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. Charles expertise, experience, enthusiasm and deep interest in coastal conservation qualify him as a person who would bring very high value to the IRL Oversight Committee.

Charles has expertise in a number of topical areas that would be of great benefit to the oversight committee: dual M.S. degrees in Environmental Management & Policy and Environmental Science, a EdS degree in Science Education, Adjunct Professor at Eastern Florida State College, large environmental program management, ISO 14001 certification, and diverse knowledge about Brevard's natural resources assets (including the Indian River Lagoon). Currently, Charles serves as the Director of environmental health and safety at Delaware North Parks and Resorts at Kennedy Space Center.

Charles understands the complexity of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan. He also understands the importance of effective, efficient, responsible and transparent implementation of the plan. John's career in industry provides additional expertise and value to the committee.

I have known Charles for over 3 decades. He is honest, observant, thoughtful, respectful, articulate, ethical and strategic in his thinking. But most important to this appointment, Charles is an active and passionate supporter of Indian River Lagoon restoration and stewardship. I make this personal recommendation, without hesitation.

Sincerely,



Duane E. De Freese, Ph.D.