



Natural Resources Management Department

2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Building A, Room 219
Viera, Florida 32940

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Inter-Office Memo

TO: Frank B. Abbate, County Manager

THRU: John Denninghoff, P.E., Assistant County Manager

FROM: Amanda Elmore, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Management (NRM) *AElmore*

SUBJ: Citizen Efficiency and Effectiveness Recommendation (CEER) #2024051

DATE: 04/01/2024

CEER #2024051 was received by the County from Terry Mott.

Citizen Statement:

As a resident volunteer on behalf of the Viera East Community Development District (VECDD) Board of Supervisors, for the past few years I've been working with the Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department on a project to create a stormwater education and pond restoration program for the Viera East Community.

While we've made progress in this endeavor, to increase the potential impact of the program-- and to help Viera East residents improve the resiliency and quality of life within the community-- I'm recommending the following:

?That the Brevard County Natural Resource Management Department broaden the scope of this project and become the lead agency in forming a joint Task Force to conduct a 3W's Resiliency Campaign 2024 to improve the quality of life for Viera East residents and to create a model education program for HOA communities within the 3W's areas listed below:

Water: Create a stormwater education and pond maintenance & restoration program.

Wildlife: Create an education program to teach residents how to live in harmony with the wildlife that surrounds the community.

Waste: Create 1) an education program re all aspects of waste (the cost of waste and what the average resident can do to help reduce costs, i.e. recycling); and 2) create a strategy to plan and design a commercial composting facility to be constructed within and maintained by the Viera East community.

The Task Force would include one or more representatives from the following organizations: Brevard County Natural Resources Management Department (lead agency), the Viera East Community Development District, the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Marine Resources Council, the Florida Institute of Technology, UF/IFAS, St. Johns Riverkeepers, Brevard

Zoo, Waste Management, Keep Brevard Beautiful, Recycle Brevard, and the Viera East Community Association Board of Directors.

The essence of the overall 3W's campaign is to inspire and teach the Viera East community leadership at all levels--including each of the individual HOA Boards of Directors--that to maximize the resiliency of the community, especially in reducing its long-term risk of flooding--all residents need to be involved in the process. And in order to inspire public engagement, residents need to be educated in these three areas.

Citizen Recommendation:

As a long-term volunteer for several government and nonprofit entities in Brevard, I know that we have the expertise to create programs (both online in person) in these three areas, and in many cases, the programs have already been created.

For example, I've been through the St. Johns River Water Management Districts stellar online seminar regarding stormwater management that was created for Community Association Managers (CAMs). Recently I asked the District if they would consider slightly modifying the program so that it was targeted to homeowners rather than CAMs. And I received a favorable response from the District.

Another example: I've completed several stormwater & shoreline restoration classes offered by UF/IFAS, and much of the information is currently available online and could easily be incorporated into a comprehensive education program that could be promoted via a campaign for community homeowners.

Yet another example: A few years ago, I was a volunteer for the Brevard Natural Resources Management Department's/Brevard Zoo's Oyster Restoration Program for the Indian River Lagoon. I raised 250 oysters and also participated in helping to create a reef in the Lagoon. I'm also a Florida Master Naturalist, and while I was attending one of the Oyster Restoration Program classes, I noticed that the procedures being used to restore the Indian River Lagoon could also be used to restore the shorelines of the ponds within our HOA communities, as long as we changed the vegetation to accommodate freshwater species. At that time, I asked Dr. Marty Main, Director for the Florida Master Naturalist Program if he would create a program to specifically teach Florida Master Naturalists how to restore the shorelines of freshwater ponds. While it took four years to roll out, the new course (Freshwater Restoration) was announced in October 2023 and will soon be available in Brevard County.

My hope is that we will inspire many Florida Master Naturalists living in Brevard to attend this new program and help assist the community in restoring our ponds and educating residents regarding how they can help maintain them. I believe the majority of residents do not understand that the ponds adjacent to their homes flow unfiltered into our waterways.

In sum: I believe we simply need to create a community campaign to energize the community and also obtain the commitments from the HOA master association (Viera East Community Association) and the individual HOA Boards of Directors to help in the process of bringing the education programs into the Viera East community by actively being involved in the program: such as promoting the program via their individual websites, inviting guest speakers at their meetings, participating and hosting workshops, and other myriad educational activities. As an added note, I would be happy to volunteer to help organize the campaign.

Some background information re the community:

The Viera East Community Development District (VECDD) is an unincorporated, master-planned community that was created in 1991 as a special tax district governed by a five-member board of supervisors.

This VECDD encompasses 2,825 acres east of Interstate 95 from Wickham Road northward into Rockledge, including 31 subdivisions, a residential population of about 12,000, with about 300 businesses, and a champion golf course (Viera East Golf Club).

And the VECDD is responsible for the construction, operation and maintenance of the community's infrastructure, an 85-pond stormwater system, conservation areas, paved trails and sidewalks, Woodside Park, and its golf course.

Staff Analysis:

The Board of County Commissioners recognizes the value of working together and the importance of partnerships that result in a more resilient Brevard. Outreach efforts involve overseeing contracted stormwater pollution prevention presentations as part of the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance.

The County has implemented programs that address the first W of the 3W's, Water. The Lagoon Loyal program was developed to address the thousands of pounds of excess algae-feeding nutrients that flow to the Indian River Lagoon, polluting both groundwater and stormwater. This program is the cornerstone of the outreach efforts required under the county's NPDES permit. Additionally, the Save Our Indian River Lagoon (SOIRL) Program is currently developing a citizen science/outreach program to partner with Homeowners Associations (HOAs) to improve stormwater pond management and reduce stormwater inputs to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL). Funding to start this program was added in the 2023 Update to the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan. After program funding was approved, staff began researching other citizen science pond management programs to develop a pilot program for implementation in Brevard. Our program will recruit volunteers from HOAs that manage at least one stormwater pond within the IRL watershed of Brevard County. A grant proposal was

recently submitted to the IRL Council/Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program to seek additional funding to support a pilot program for this education/outreach campaign.

Regarding the second W, Wildlife, the Board does not have jurisdiction relevant to wildlife protection. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission or United States Fish and Wildlife Service would need to spearhead efforts regarding outreach for fauna. Additionally, as noted in the citizen recommendation, the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) has a Florida Master Naturalist Program that teaches those who teach others about Florida's unique ecosystems and wildlife. UF/IFAS Brevard Extension continues to work with Natural Resources to assist and educate the citizens of Brevard when appropriate.

The last W, Waste, is partially addressed by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Waste Reduction Section. This section is responsible for promoting and monitoring statewide recycling and waste reduction programs as well as the recycling and proper management of household hazardous waste, medications, mercury lamps (fluorescent) and devices (thermostats), batteries, and scrap electronics. Grants and technical assistance are provided to local governments for the implementation of solid waste management programs. As required pursuant to 403.7032 Florida Statutes, and Chapter VIII of Brevard's Comprehensive Plan, Brevard County's Solid Waste Department provides outreach by a Recycling Coordinator and a Recycling Educator who attend community events, civic organization meetings, school functions, and other events as appropriate. The Solid Waste webpage provides a plethora of educational materials including a Recyclopedia, Recycling Kids' Corner, and other links and media.

Although not located in the Viera East community, Florida Recyclers of Brevard (Sarno Road) is a commercial composting facility. At the current Brevard County Solid Waste Management locations, there is neither the space nor the personnel to engage in composting. Lastly, composting results in odors that are not normally compatible adjacent to residential uses unless high-cost management and maintenance equipment is employed.

Staff Recommended Action:

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners reject the recommendations as they are already implemented, being developed, or are not under the jurisdiction of Brevard County.

Recommendation Details

Contact Information

Full Name: Terry Mott **Email Address:** terrymott93@gmail.com

Mailing Address: 4899 WEXFORD DR
ROCKLEDGE fl 32955 **Alt Email Address:**

Phone Number 321-223-6943

Group/Organization

N/A

Recommendation Information

Recommendation Title: Brevard County Creating 3 W's Resiliency Campaign 2024

Areas Affected:**Department:**

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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Problem Description:

**Recommendation
Description**

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Attachments

There are no attachments for this recommendation.

Administrative Action

Evaluation

Recommendation Timeline

User	Status	Date	Remarks
RACHEL HORST	Citizen Submitted	Jan 3, 2024	
Karen Conde	Department Assigned	Jan 4, 2024	UF/BREVARD COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICES OFFICE Assigned

Awaiting action from department director