

Boards Application Form

Profile

If interested in one of these boards please fill out this application and submit.

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee: Submitted

Prefix

Gary
First Name

S
Middle Initial

Aguinaga
Last Name

gsaguinaga@gmail.com
Email Address

2124 N Indian River Drive
Home Address

Suite or Apt

Cocoa
City

FL
State

32922
Postal Code

Mobile: (321) 307-5844
Primary Phone

Mobile: (321) 626-0066
Alternate Phone

How long have you been a resident of Brevard County?

32 years

To which Commissioner are you applying?

None Selected

Do you consent to a standard criminal background check?

Yes No

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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 a field listed in the drop down menu below. 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 \$542 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.

In addition to completing the application, a resumé and at least one letter of recommendation are required. Resumés and recommendation letters should be a minimum 12 point, sans-serif font (e.g. Arial, Calibri, Veranda) and uploaded below in Word or pdf format in order to meet American Disabilities Act Section 508 compliance requirements. 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. Scanned resumes and recommendation letters cannot be accepted due to Section 508 compliance requirements.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please check next to one or more of the following that best matches your expertise: *

Technology

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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 believe that the sales tax revenue available to drive improvement to the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) is truly an amazing gift and provides a tremendous opportunity for significant progress to be made toward continuous improvement in the health of the IRL. It is therefore critical that each dollar spent should be allocated to projects that, when executed effectively, will provide the greatest benefit possible. As a member of the SOIRL Oversight Committee, I feel I could work effectively with other committee members to utilize my experience in project evaluation, cost benefit analysis, development and construction of large infrastructure projects and more to help evaluate proposals and make recommendations that will drive pollution reduction and water quality improvement.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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 Save our Indian River Lagoon Project Plan (SOIRLPP) and the restoration needs of the Indian River Lagoon.

Education: I earned a B.S. degree in Marine Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, and completed the Tuck Executive Finance/Business Education course at Dartmouth College. I also hold a U.S. Coast Guard Chief Engineer's License and a Chief Facility Operator's certification from the American Society of Mechanical Engineers Relevant Professional Experience: More than 30 years in the development, construction and operation of large-scale infrastructure projects that convert waste to energy. I've gained significant experience in project evaluation from both a technical and financial perspective. As Managing Director, and later as President and CEO, I had direct P&L (profit and loss) responsibility for multi-million dollar businesses and for ensuring that infrastructure projects were completed on time and on budget. Community Volunteer Experience: I have volunteered for more than 6 years with the Brevard Zoo and others on projects designed to drive improvement in the IRL, such as oyster gardening, oyster reef construction and periodic monitoring, clam bed monitoring, living shoreline site creation, and hosting a pilot seagrass planting/monitoring project.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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.

I have served on teams and have been in leadership roles for more than 40 years, beginning with the roles of Regimental Commander and Honor Board Committee Chair at the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Positions held during this time include Team Leader, Plant Manager, Vice President, Managing Director of International Operations and President/CEO. I have served on Boards and led Joint Venture partnerships in the development and operation of large infrastructure projects. These roles have provided significant experience in objective project evaluation, team and group consensus building, cost/benefit analysis, and have demanded that transparency and the utmost integrity be applied at all times.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

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.

I believe that objective, non-biased, fact based analysis/judgement is perhaps the most critical requirement for committee members to exercise in carrying out the duties of this committee. Without this, the committee cannot serve its purpose responsibly, cannot earn the trust and respect of key stakeholders and cannot function effectively.

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Please provide a short (one paragraph) bio. This will be posted for the public to view on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website should you be selected to join the committee. Examples of existing bios can be viewed on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website.

Gary Aguinaga has worked for more than 40 years as an ocean going ship's engineer, and as an executive in the development, design, construction and operation of renewable energy projects. He has worked to reduce pollution created by converting waste material into clean energy throughout the U.S., and in Europe and Asia as well. Gary is a long-term resident of Brevard County and has lived on and enjoyed boating in Sykes Creek, the Banana River and the Indian River for many years. In "retirement," Gary has worked for a number of years with the Brevard Zoo and others on oyster gardening/reef construction, clam monitoring, seagrass, living shoreline and other restoration projects,

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

Select one of the following in order to achieve transparency with the public we list the contact information for the Citizen Oversight Committee members on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon website so the public may contact them with questions or comments. Please provide either or both of the following information you wish to share publicly should you be selected to join the committee. *

Email

Question applies to Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee

[L_Koss_Reference_Letter_for_G_Aguinaga_2024.docx](#)

Upload a Reference Letter

Are you currently serving on any State, Regional or Brevard County board, council, or committees? If so please name.

No

Do you have or hold any employment or contractual relationship with any business or any agency which is subject to the regulation of or is doing business with Brevard County? If so, please explain.

No

Please explain your interests and experiences.

I love being a resident of Brevard County and have been a resident, on and off, since the mid 1960's. As such, I care deeply about the quality of life that the County offers its residents and in preserving the economic well being of its residents and the business community. I believe that a healthy Indian River Lagoon is critical for Brevard County to maintain the above qualities and, therefore, my interests include volunteering with Restore our Shores/Brevard Zoo and others on oyster, clam, seagrass and shoreline restoration projects. I have enjoyed boating on the Indian River Lagoon for many years and enjoy a number of other outdoor activities.

Please explain your background, including education, work experience, civic or community organization memberships and positions, and any professional licenses or memberships, and how this applies to the function of the Board, Council or Committee that you are interested in serving on.

I am a Marine Engineer by degree, and began my career as an oceangoing ship's engineer. I later worked for more than 30 years in the development, construction and operation of large merchant and municipal renewable energy power plants, both domestically and internationally. My career progressed with positions of increasing responsibility, culminating in positions such as Managing Director of International Operations for Waste Management, where over \$1.5 billion in infrastructure development was completed, and in President and CEO of a renewable energy company, with full P&L responsibility I am a member of the Marine Resources Council, Surfrider, Gulf of Maine Research Institute donor, and volunteer with Brevard Zoo/Restore our Shores.

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners strives to promote diversity and provide reasonable accommodations for individuals with disabilities. If you are requesting an accommodation, please indicate below.

None requested.

[2024_Bio_Gary_Aguinaga.doc](#)

Upload a Resume

Agreement

Advisory committees are subject to the Florida open meetings (Sunshine) and public records laws; your response with a completed application with your contact information is a public record; if chosen as a member of the committee, any communications to you from the County or from you to the County in regard to the committee will be a public record.

Please Agree with the Following Statement

I understand the responsibilities and commitment of time associated with an appointment to a Brevard County board, council or committee.

I Agree



Gary Aguinaga

2124 N Indian River Drive, Cocoa, FL. 32922

Tel: (321) 307-5844

E Mail: gsaguinaga@gmail.com

Summary

A results-oriented engineer and corporate executive with more than 40 years of experience in designing, developing and operating major infrastructure projects (valued over \$2.5 billion) that convert municipal and organic waste material into clean energy that mitigates the effects of environmental pollution and climate change.

A recently retired, long-term Brevard County resident who lives on and is passionate about the Indian River Lagoon (IRL), and who desires to be part of the team that implements solutions/activities designed to significantly reduce pollution sources into the Lagoon and to deliver restoration projects that will drive significant and continuous water quality and ecosystem improvement.

Career Experience

- 1981 - 1986: Ship's Engineer, Exxon shipping company, culminating in Chief Engineer's License, USCG
- 1986 - 1987: Launch Complex Supervisor – Cape Canaveral Air Force Station
- 1987 - 1990: Staff Engineer, Bettis Atomic Power Laboratory – Westinghouse
- 1990 - 2016: Wheelabrator Technologies Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. Key positions held include:
 - Vice President and Managing Director of International Operations, responsible for the company's day-to-day business activities in the UK, Europe and Asia, including project development, construction, operations, contract negotiations and customer relations.

- Senior Vice President, Maintenance and Reliability, responsible for maintaining Wheelabrator's \$2.5 billion asset base, consisting of 21 energy-from-waste and biomass power plants, and for 250 maintenance professionals. More than 30 years clean energy facility operating experience.
- Board Director for a number of joint venture companies for Wheelabrator/Waste Management in the U.S., Europe and Hong Kong
- 2016 - 2023: President/CEO for True North Renewable Energy, working to mitigate climate change by diverting organic waste from landfills and converting it to clean energy.

Education

- Bachelor of Science degree in Marine/Mechanical Engineering from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.
- Tuck Executive Business Education Program graduate - Dartmouth College.
- USCG Chief Engineer's license.
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers refuse-to-energy Chief Facility Operator's certification.

Community Interests/Activities

- Volunteer – Indian River Lagoon restoration activities for the past six years – Brevard Zoo, Restore Our Shores (oyster gardening, oyster reef construction and monitoring, clam bed monitoring, pilot sea grass planting/monitoring residence host, living shoreline creation). These volunteer activities have provided me with the opportunity to learn a great deal about the water quality issues and mitigation requirements in the IRL from the science and academic experts who lead these programs.
- Member of the Marine Resources Council, Surfrider, Gulf of Maine Research Institute and Appalachian Mountain Club



65 Stone Street • Cocoa, FL 32922
PHONE: (321) 433-8685
FAX: (321) 433-8685

December 18, 2024

Brevard County Commissioners
Brevard Government Center
2725 Judge Fran Jamieson Way
Viera, FL 32940

Dear Commissioners,

This is a letter of recommendation for Gary Aguinaga in hopes you will appoint him to serve on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Oversight Committee. I've known Mr. Aguinaga for more than a decade as a neighbor, but also as Cocoa's Volunteer Leader for the Indian River Lagoon.

As a long time resident on the banks of the Lagoon, Gary's passion has developed along with his thoughtfulness about the needs for its recovery. He has spent hundreds of hours volunteering with the Brevard Zoo, MRC and Surfrider doing oyster gardening, reef construction, monitoring and waterway cleanups. He has made our neighborhood a test bed for sea grass farming.

Gary's background serves him well for guiding the recovery of the Indian River Lagoon. He is a Marine/Mechanical engineer by degree and a graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. He's shared with me the years he spent developing, designing, constructing and operating renewable energy from waste facilities, both in the U.S. and internationally. Having constructed and managed more than a billion dollars in infrastructure projects, he's aware of obstacles and opportunities for large scale projects.

Gary will be a smart, level-headed asset on the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Citizen Advisory Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lorraine Koss
City of Cocoa Councilperson
321-474-8445

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